

WARREN
MAGAZINE



SPIRIT
#4

OCT. 1974

SUPER
SPECIAL
SUMMER
CLASSIC
ISSUE

8 BIG
STORIES
WITH
COLOR!

THE

SPIRIT

By

Will
EISNER

59296-5
PDC

\$1.00



RETAILERS: SEE PAGE 69

FLAXEN
WEAVER



ELEVATOR

VINO RED

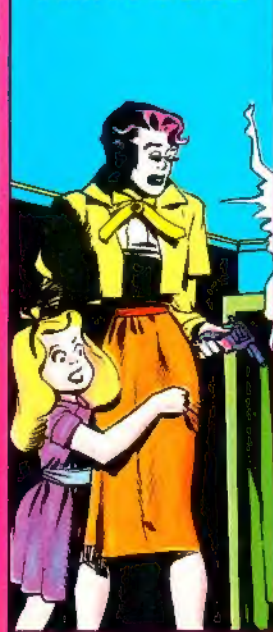


THE GUILTY
GUN

THE SPIRIT

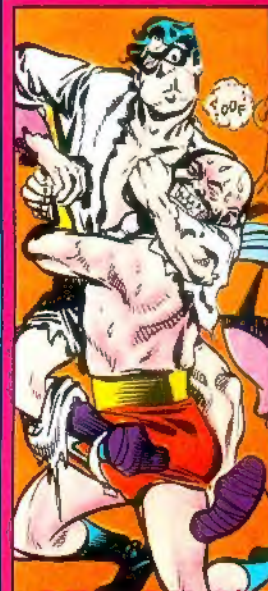
EIGHT BIG STORIES IN THIS EXCITING ISSUE

MR. McDOOL



LIFE BELOW

THE SPIRIT
OF '76



RETURN OF
SILK SATIN



OUR COVER:
Beneath the city streets, in the sordid sewers of Central City, THE SPIRIT searches for a desperate killer and finds a haven for "dead" outlaws!

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SPIRIT

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7 LIFE BELOW Beneath the teeming streets of the city, THE SPIRIT haunts the sewers in search of a daring assassin! But what lurks below is more than he imagined!

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51 THE GUILTY GUN Three people were dead! Victims of an impossible killer. Only THE SPIRIT could solve the incredible riddle of the gun that shot by itself!

59 FLAXEN WEAVER They say Flaxen Weaver died for THE SPIRIT. She double-crossed her own partners in crime... killed them out of love for mysterious masked man!

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THE SPIRIT'S DEAD LETTERS



It is all too rare that a second issue of a magazine comes close to matching the first. But **THE SPIRIT** has succeeded! The first issue was absolutely great. But the second was even better!

I had hoped to read the Powder Puff series sometime, and it came even sooner than I expected. I can't pick out a favorite story in this issue, though, since they were all well put together and exciting!

Let's just say the whole package was excellent!

STEVE ANDREWS
St. Charles, Mo.

I have enjoyed reading few comics, but **THE SPIRIT** is a welcome exception. "Black Alley" and "Paraffin" from issue #3 were quite good, although I was a little disappointed by "Lonesome Cool" and the story about the embezzler.

Keep the good work truckin'.

TIM COSTELLO
Barrington, Ill.

"Eisner is a master of characterization"

Again **Will Eisner** has created another great issue starring the finest comic hero in history. He combines excellent stories with art well suited to the material. His unique graphic arrangements are still a beacon in the comic industry today, and considering much of the work is some thirty years old, that is no little achievement.

In reference to the comments of **Craig Peters** in the letter column of **THE SPIRIT** #3, in which he suggested new **SPIRIT** stories by **Rich Corben**, **Frank Frazetta**, and **Esteban Maroto**: Please don't! **THE SPIRIT** is a creation of **Will Eisner** and should remain so. The aforementioned artists have already earned their reputations within the pages of **CREEPLY**, **EERIE**, and **VAMPIRELLA**, but only **Will Eisner** is suited for **THE SPIRIT**.

JOHN BICK
Garden City, N.J.

I subscribed to your magazine in December when I found out you were bringing back **THE SPIRIT**. I remembered it from the **Harvey** comics version a few years back, and I think that **Warren's** publication of the series is fantastic! The characterizations are truly real! You feel for characters like **Silken Floss** and **Bleak**.

I especially enjoyed the story which featured the return of **THE SPIRIT's** old nemesis, **The Octopus**. I hope we see more of him in the future.

STEPHEN THOMPSON
Urbana, Ohio



He'll be here, Steve.

The cover of **SPIRIT** #3 was a collector's masterpiece! Such powerful realism, mood and effectiveness... it almost seemed alive!

Why should I take the time to comment on the inside contents? All I have to say is it was a gem throughout!

JACK MONNINGER
Indianapolis, Ind.

THE SPIRIT is every bit as good as I have heard it was, and I congratulate **Warren** for publishing it to a larger audience than was ever possible in the 1940s. And the new format is perfect!

Will Eisner was truly one of the most innovative artists of his day. He's a man whose talent extended far beyond his times. His thoroughly individual style, his fresh look toward layouts, his fine use of mood and atmosphere and his superior character portraits have all contributed to making him an artist of boundless scope and versatility.

No two **SPIRIT** stories are ever alike, but each contains to a lesser or greater degree, the essential **Eisner** characteristics: humor and pathos, drama and satire, small-time relevance and a certain level of social consciousness. His characters are extremely realistic, modelled after everyday people. **Eisner** is a master of characterization and brilliant story plots.

THOMAS SZEBERENY
Montreal, Canada

I would like to congratulate **Bill DuBay**, the colorist on **SPIRIT** #3. I had already seen the story in an enlarged black-and-white form in **Jim Steranko's** comics anthology, and was overwhelmed by the color version. The thumb-prints on the edge of the index cards were a good touch!

ROGER KRUEGAR
Phoenix, Ariz.

What amazes me most about **THE SPIRIT** is that a comics hero first published in the 1940s had no superpowers, nor did his enemies! He didn't save the world, or conquer ridiculous space monsters, as did nearly all the other comic heroes of his time.

THE SPIRIT's enemies are the real enemies of society: organized crime, crooked politicians, and ordinary people who have gone wrong.

This, plus the fact that **Will Eisner** is willing to use him humorously make **Denny Colt** unusual and often enlightening.

ROBERT REED
Oak Park, Ill.

What can I say? First, I get **CREEPLY** #62 in the mail with the superb addition of **Berni Wrightson**. Then I get my first look at the latest reincarnation of **THE SPIRIT**. The stories stand up magnificently today, and the color section proves that **Eisner** has lost none of his wit or style.

R. DAVID LUDWIG
Huntington Beach, Calif.

This letter is to show my appreciation for **THE SPIRIT** in a manner additional to buying multiple copies of each issue.

The reissuing of the vintage stories is as important an event to the comics medium now as was their original appearance decades ago. And considering the limited market for quality comics material, you couldn't have developed a more attractive format without making it prohibitively expensive.

When I purchased the first issue, I didn't care at all for the tones that you'd added for black and white publication. But since then, I've grown accustomed enough to them to accept them. Also, I don't approve of the titles you've added to nearly every story. I can appreciate your reasons for doing these things but I have qualms about anything that tampers with the purity of original art.

My feelings are even more mixed regarding the color stories. As beautifully done as they are, a great amount of the detail, as well as much of the mood, is often lost. I can tolerate one color story per issue, but please don't take seriously the suggestion that you go all color.

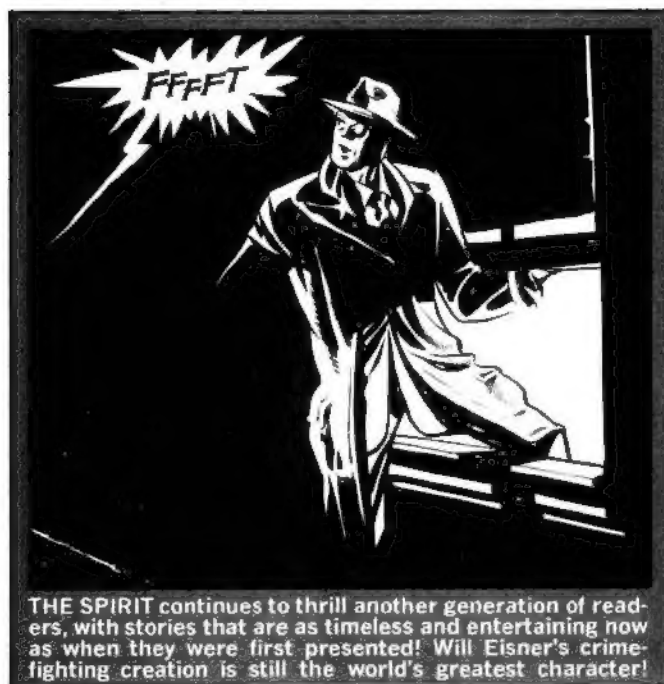
Actually, I feel embarrassed to lodge these minor complaints. Let I appear ungrateful, let me say that **THE SPIRIT** is far and away the best comic published today. The entire product... editorial material and packaging, as well as the stories and art... indicate that the people responsible really care, an attitude increasingly rare in the comics industry these days.

GORDON FLAGG
Atlanta, Ga.

THE SPIRIT does to the comic strip what **2001** did to the science-fiction movie!

All I suggest, though, is that you take it easy on the contents page. Your text reminds me of the awful blurbs on the back of cheap paperbacks (is there such a thing anymore?). Let the stories speak for themselves. They do it awfully well.

RICHARD MEYERS
Bridgeport, Conn.



THE SPIRIT continues to thrill another generation of readers, with stories that are as timeless and entertaining now as when they were first presented! **Will Eisner's** crime-fighting creation is still the world's greatest character!

"It was a gem throughout!"

I have never written to a comic magazine before and it is with great displeasure that I do so now.

The basis for my complaint is the character Ebony in THE SPIRIT series. I find him offensive. His appearance and speech, even in reprint, cannot be condoned.

Your books are now being read by adults who remember the adventures of THE SPIRIT as children. But also, new young readers of both the black and white races, are reading it for the first time. And this parody of a black human being is fed into their minds.

I, as a black man, who manage to speak and write English to a fair degree and who does not look like a monkey, must explain this book to my children. And if that is the case, I challenge the appearance of that character in the book as bigotry.

I hope you will display more common sense and decency in the future.



WILLIAM WILLIAMS
New York, N.Y.

Your thoughtful letter raises a question that is of serious concern to all of us, and it deserves a straightforward answer.

It is not, nor has it ever been our intention to portray any faction of our society, minority or otherwise, in a degrading fashion.

Ebony is the product of an era when it was fashionable to place minorities in the role of comic relief, as did the films of Mantan Moreland and Stephen Fetchit. Today, many of these seem in questionable taste, but we don't feel that re-printing stories, or re-showing films of that period constitute bigotry.

True, Ebony is a stereotype and a parody. But no more so than Archie Bunker is of middle-class America, or Desi Arnaz of the Cuban immigrant. These characters are fictional creations who invariably make people laugh without offending their dignity, yet they are no more representative of their respective races than Ebony is of his.

Humor is more often at someone's expense. It exaggerates the foibles and weaknesses of a human being in order to evoke laughter. While a character's actions might appear ridiculous on the surface, beneath them is a dignity which the audience must recognize before they can laugh. Without this basic human dignity for his audience to identify with, Ebony could never have become such a popular character with fans of all races!

Thank you for THE SPIRIT. It is a magazine I enjoy from cover to cover, which is more than I can say for most of the magazines and comics being published today.

The artwork is superb, and Will Eisner has proven to be a master of mood.

It seems that good things don't last long these days. I wish THE SPIRIT a lot of luck.

CHRISTOPHER COOKE
Westport Harbor, Mass.

THE SPIRIT is one of the finest heroes in existence and it took a company like Warren to bring it back to life.

I have a few suggestions, though. Why not reprint the supplements in order, starting with the last one in THE SPIRIT bags? Also, why not print the origin of THE SPIRIT in color? I am sure a lot of people who have never read it would appreciate it, and those who have read it would enjoy seeing it again.

DENNIS SUMMERS
Oak Park, Mich.

Warren has done fandom a great service by bringing back into the spotlight Will Eisner and THE SPIRIT. A whole new generation of readers will be turned on to the realistic and refreshingly human stories, which are often humorous, touching, and suspenseful at the same time.

With the publication of THE SPIRIT, it appears you are now willing to try something else besides horror stories, and I for one would like to see you publish a black-and-white super hero magazine. With the talented staff you already have, it could be one of the finest publications around!

DANIEL LOUIE
Baldwin, NY

THE SPIRIT #2 was incredible! Ever since I read about the character in Jim Steranko's "History of Comics," THE SPIRIT and I have become good friends. Will Eisner's use of lighting effects, and the way he draws his readers into each story are beautiful.

THE SPIRIT is real. He gets beaten up, sometimes quite brutally, misses crooks, and ruins his clothes. And even when he triumphs there's still that lingering question in the reader's mind: "How did he ever do it?"

Eisner was always ahead of his time and now it seems, so is Jim Warren for bringing him back into perspective.

Thank you for many hours of reading pleasure.

MIKE CAHLIN
Gainesville, Fla.



Unique, yet human villains have always been a trademark in the adventures of THE SPIRIT!

I tip my hat to Mr. Warren and Mr. Eisner for coming up with this new edition of THE SPIRIT. Both issues so far have been fantastic. Now the Warren magazines are even farther ahead of their competitors.

SPIRIT #2 was the equal of the tremendous first issue! All the stories were great, especially "Mortimer J. Titmouse." This combined a modern day crisis with a true sense of the period in which the story was set.

BRIAN JACKSON
New York, N.Y.

Having seen little of Will Eisner's work before now, I can say that I have been very impressed with the first two issues of THE SPIRIT!

I received much enjoyment from Eisner's imaginative art. His layouts, use of light and shadow, and perspective all contribute to some of the best graphic storytelling to appear in comics.

The plots, characterization, and use of satire are also interesting and well done.

I sincerely hope he will be able to write and draw some new Spirit stories.

ALAN LANKIN
Vineland, N.J.

You are doing thousands of SPIRIT fans a great service by reprinting the old classics. Undoubtedly, you will attract many more followers.

THE SPIRIT can only be equalled by Hal Foster's Prince Valiant as the all-time greatest comic strips.

TONY ALBENSI
Monroeville, Penn.

After reading the second issue of THE SPIRIT, I had only one regret...namely, that I missed the first issue. True, I had seen the ads in other Warren magazines, but I had no idea it would be this good!

As I read the exploits of THE SPIRIT, I fell immediately in love with Powder Puff, and all the other characters, both heroes and villains.

I was enthralled by both the art and the stories. Will Eisner is as fine a writer as he is an artist.

I would like to add my congratulations to those that you have already received, and extend a hearty thanks to Jim Warren, Bill DuBay, and most of all to Will Eisner for bringing THE SPIRIT back to a world where he is sorely needed.

RICHARD R. WOLFE
Laurelton, N.Y.

IT GETS AWFULLY LONELY IN WILDWOOD CEMETERY

Denny Colt needs something to do besides fighting crimes all day. Why not give him some letters to read?

THE SPIRIT DEAD LETTERS
c/o Warren Publishing Co.
145 E. 32nd St.
New York, N.Y. 10016



WILL EISNER INTERVIEWS DOLAN!



EISNER: I guess you've known THE SPIRIT longer than anyone, Commissioner Dolan. A lot of people would like to know how THE SPIRIT came to be. I mean, how did he *originate*? The reasons for the *mask*, etc. Can you tell our readers something about that?

DOLAN: I've known the Spirit... or Denny Colt... since he was a kid in the police department. You see, Denny Colt really started his career on the streets of Central City. He was orphaned early and grew up with an uncle (an old boxer). The old man was later killed in a street brawl. Denny worked his way through school and after college got a job in the D.A.'s office. His experience there stimulated his interest in criminology.

It wasn't long before he left the department and after taking a master's degree in criminology he set up a practice on his own. He would hire out to public officials or police chiefs like me.

EISNER: But what about the *masked* bit... THE SPIRIT thing?

DOLAN: Well, that's a story in itself. Many years ago a real nut called Dr. Cobra got the idea that he could knock out the whole city by spiking the water supply with a chemical he developed. The chemical could bring on a state of suspended animation when ingested.

EISNER: Boy, was he *sick*!

DOLAN: Yeah! Well, Denny Colt got on to it somehow and tipped me off. Now, time was short and Denny couldn't wait until I got a patrol car in motion. So he went in to make a bust on his own.

EISNER: That was a *dumb* thing to do.

DOLAN: Foolhardy, brave, impetuous... but he had no choice, really. Cobra had the juice piped into the city water supply, and all he had to do was turn the valve.

EISNER: That doesn't make any sense to me! If

this nut Dr. Cobra was such a brain, he should have figured that...

DOLAN: Look, Eisner, are you going to let ME tell this, or aren't you?

During the fight that followed, Denny smashed up the place. A gunshot by Cobra burst the glass tank that contained the fluid and Denny Colt was immersed in it. He went into a state of suspended animation. When we got there, we thought he was dead. In fact, we accepted the fact that he was dead.

EISNER: You *what*.... Man, that's *unbelievable*! If you knew that Cobra had such a fluid, surely you assumed that THE SPIRIT was not...

DOLAN: A few days later we had a funeral...

EISNER: *FUNERAL*!! (expletive deleted) Did you get a coroner's report?

DOLAN: ... and buried Denny Colt in Wildwood Cemetery.

EISNER: *BURIED*!! (expletive deleted) You could have killed the poor (expletive deleted)!

DOLAN: Sometime later, Denny appeared in my office...

EISNER: How long later?

DOLAN: ... Er, I don't know exactly! He talked about this being an opportunity to change his life.

EISNER: Why?

DOLAN: Well, he was now officially DEAD. Therefore, OFFICIALLY he did not exist! This would free him from all kinds of restrictions.

EISNER: Like WHICH? I don't get it. You mean, like taxes? Where would he live? HOW?

DOLAN: He built a secret home under his headstone in Wildwood Cemetery. From there he continued to assist me.

EISNER: Hey, did he get a *building permit*?

DOLAN: Are you trying to be funny? Who dreamed up this whole bit, anyhow?

EISNER: (Expletive deleted).

DOLAN: (Inaudible).

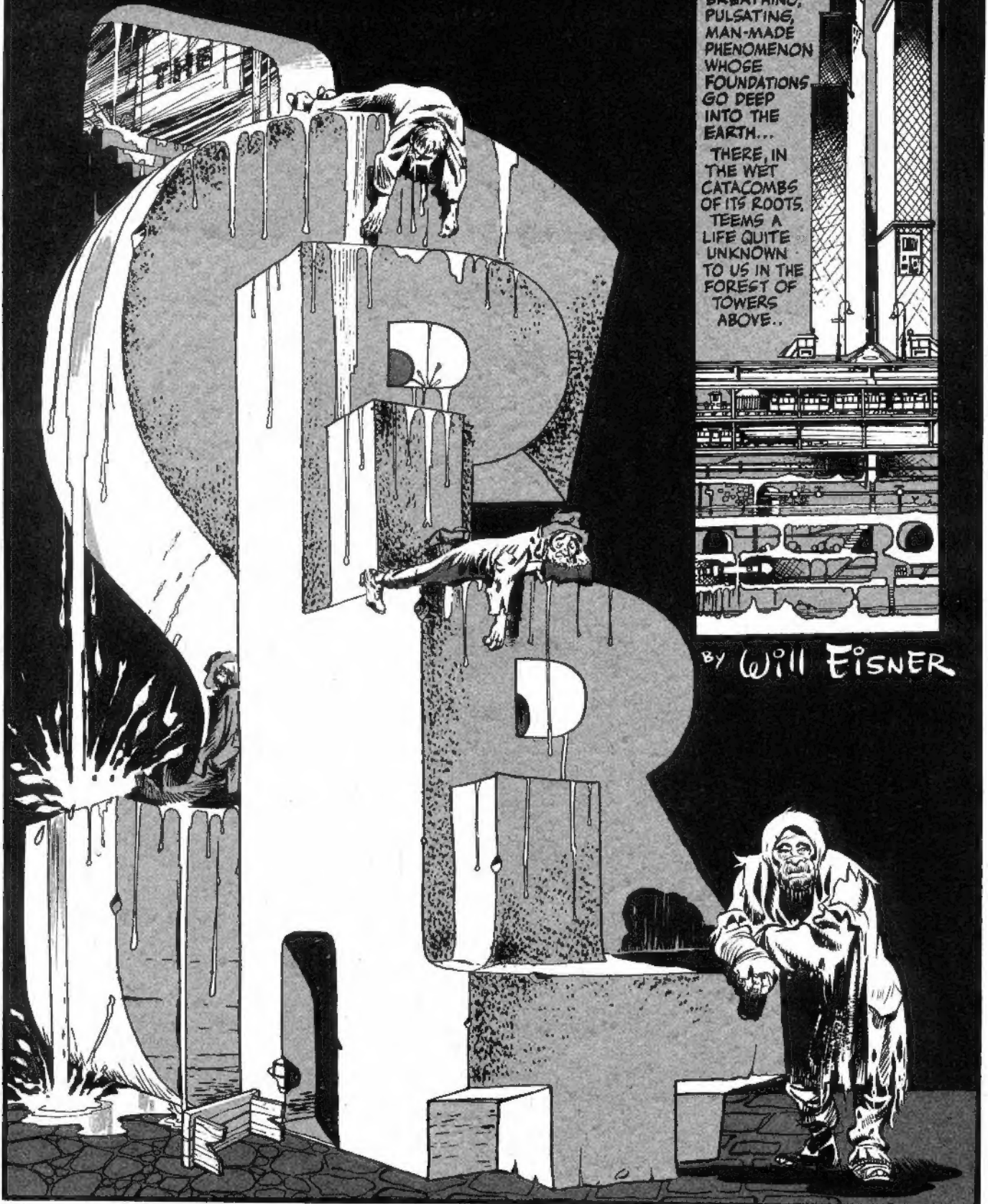


LIFE BELOW

First Published February 22, 1946
Copyright 1974 Will Eisner

A CITY
IS A LIVING
THING...
IT IS A
BREATHING,
PULSATING,
MAN-MADE
PHENOMENON
WHOSE
FOUNDATIONS
GO DEEP
INTO THE
EARTH...
THERE, IN
THE WET
CATACOMBS
OF ITS ROOTS,
TEEMS A
LIFE QUITE
UNKNOWN
TO US IN THE
FOREST OF
TOWERS
ABOVE..

By WILL EISNER





So remote is the thought of life beneath the streets that in the chill rainy dawn of December 26, 1947, police commissioner Dolan laughed when "Tattler" Jeeks said "The Worm" would come from the grave to keep him from squealing about where the bank money was hidden.

NONSENSE! THE WORM WAS SHOT MONTHS AGO, AND POLICE SAW HIM FALL INTO A SEWER... HE WAS WASHED OUT TO SEA! BESIDES, THE AREA IS SURROUNDED... A FLY COULDN'T GET AT YOU..

BRRR. ACHOO!
IT'S RAINING AGAIN... LET'S TAKE A STAFF CAR TO THE CELLS, DOLAN.

YEAH...HEY, KLINK... GET US A STAFF CAR... WE'RE TAKING TATTLER TO CELL BLOCK 10 FOR FINGERPRINTING... HURRY..THIS RAIN IS SOAKING ME!

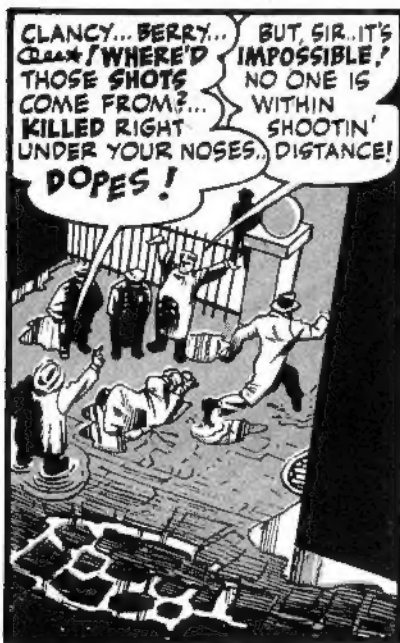
YES, SIR.

NOTHING TO FEAR, TATTLER...YOU'RE IN THE POLICE HEADQUARTERS COURTYARD!

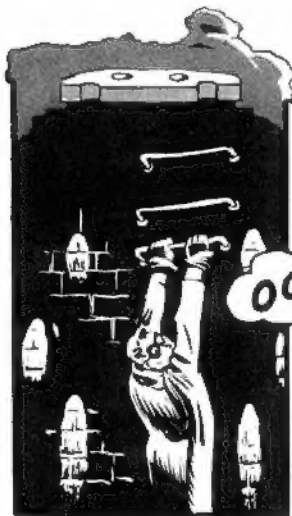
I..I..I K-KNOW.. B-BUT THE WOIM AINT DEAD.. HE'LL COME FROM BELOW... TO GET ME...

B-B-BUT A W-WOIM COULD!

HA HA HA...



...And so...
in the silence of
the city beneath....

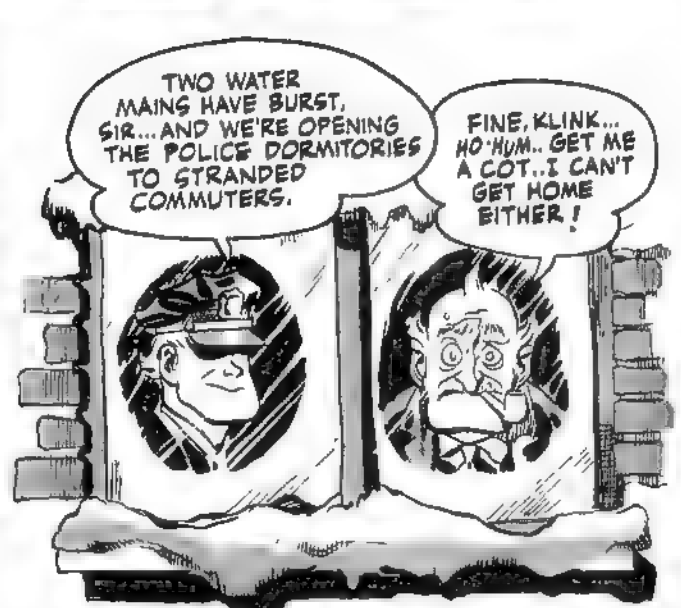






It was now midnight of the 26th of December, 1947... a snowfall greater than the blizzard of '88 had fallen and the city lay prostrate under 25.8 inches of snow... railroads were halted... power lines down... cars and trucks lay abandoned in the streets. the once-busy metropolis lay inert and silent under a shroud of white. Atop the manhole cover stands a 2½ ton truck immovable..





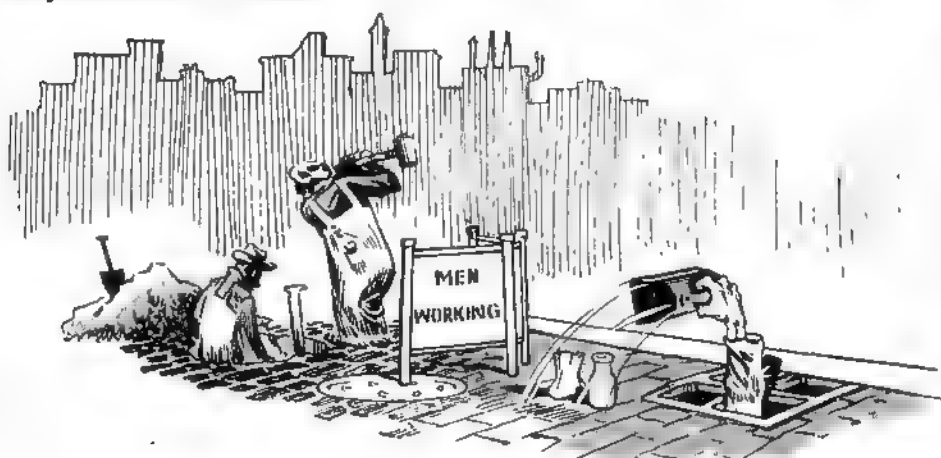
On the morning of the 27th, the city with military precision moved huge equipment into the streets and began the million-dollar job of snow removal ... life began to regain its tempo, and things long buried under the drifts began to move....



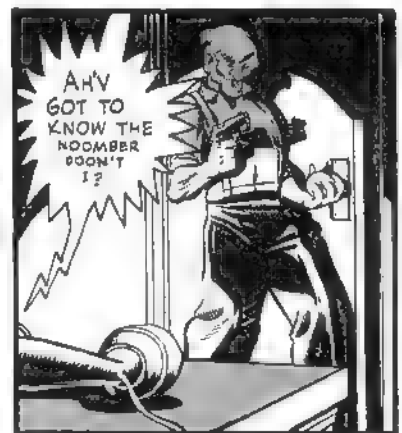
Within 48 hours the temperature dropped ... a soft rain melted the snow, saving the city millions of dollars...

....and all was normal above...

... and below the city..

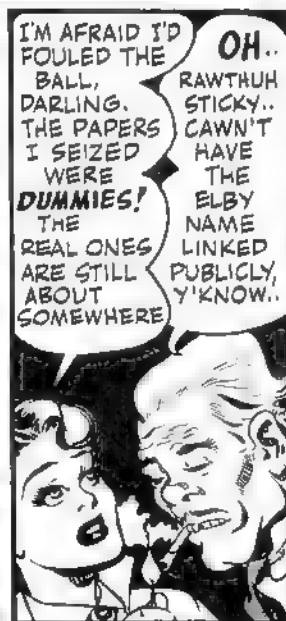


MR McDOL

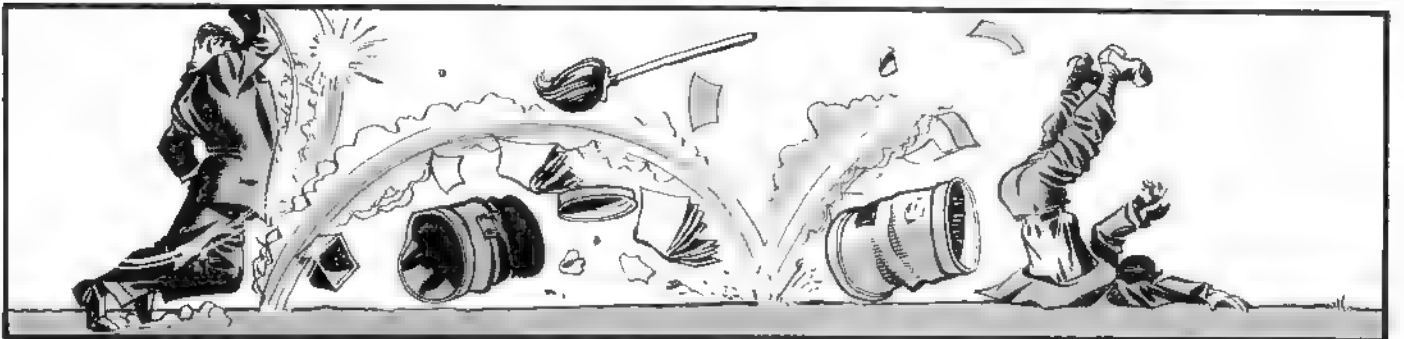
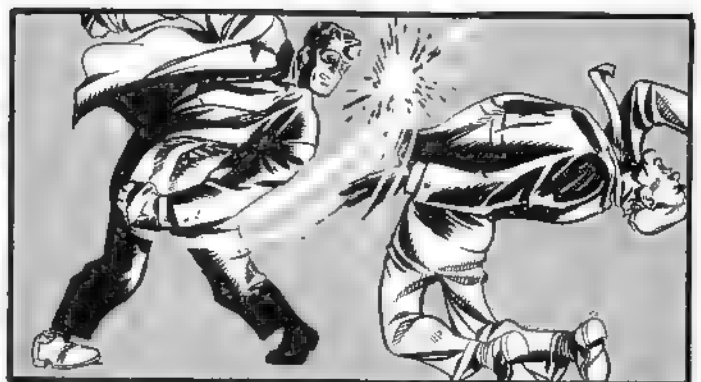














THE SILK & SATIN SPIRIT

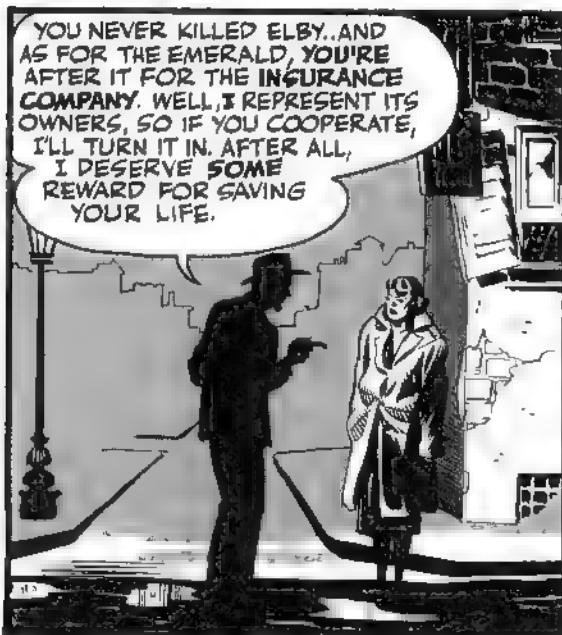
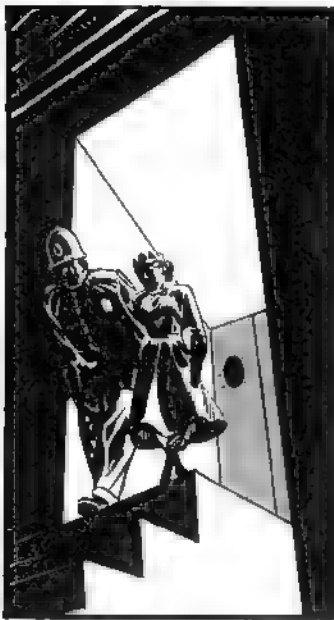
BY
WILL EISNER

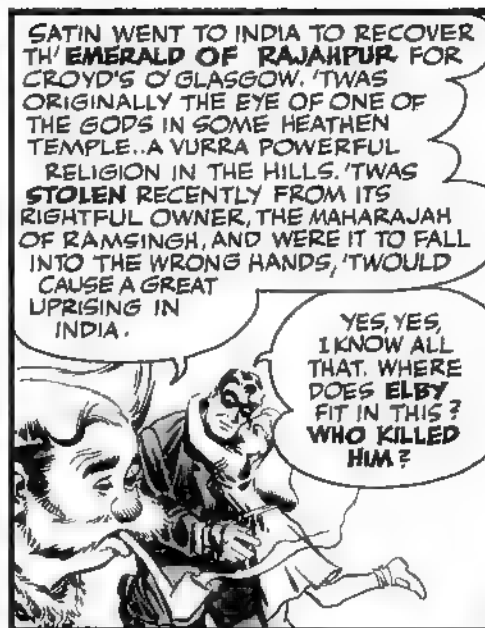
SILK SATIN...
THIS COURT HAS PROVEN
YOU GUILTY OF THE MURDER
OF LORD ELBY...AND
SENTENCES YOU TO HANG
BY THE NECK UNTIL YOU
ARE DEAD.

OH
MUMMY!

COME, WEE
HILDIE...
'TIS
NAUGHT
WE C'N
DO HERE.

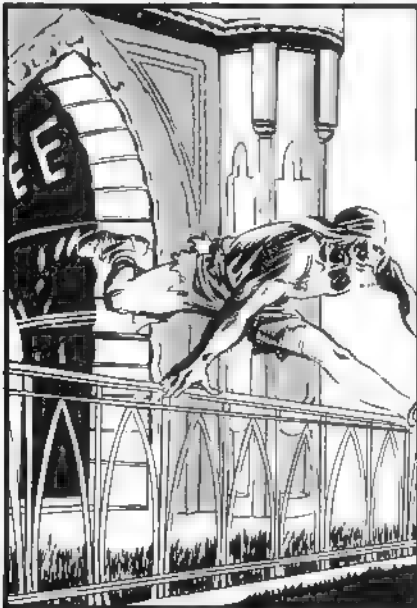
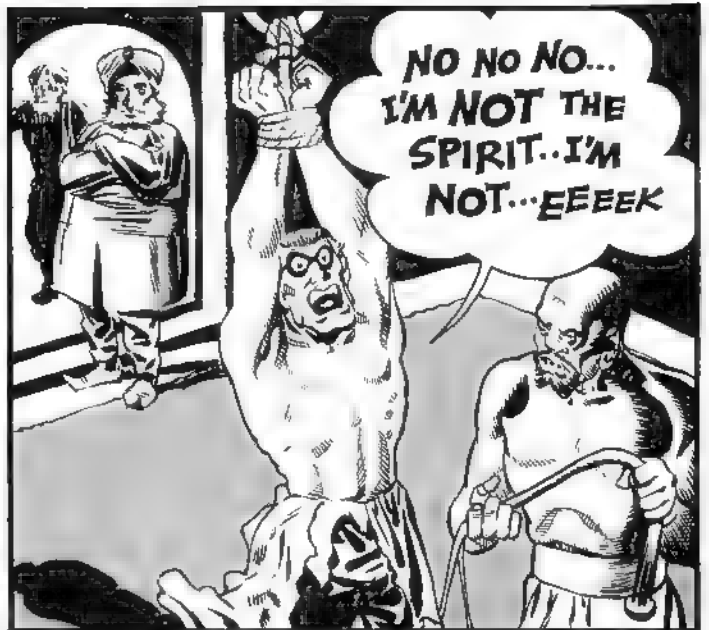


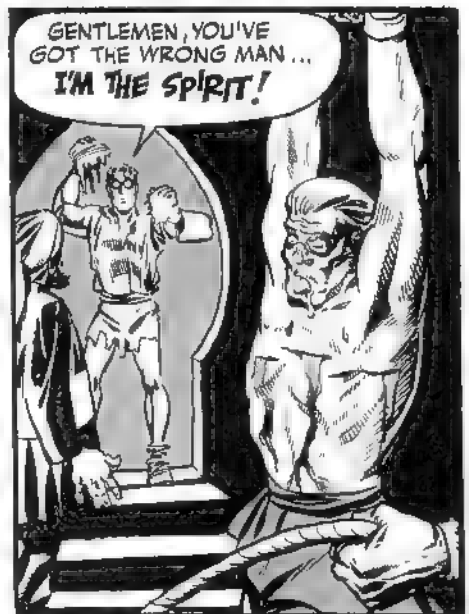


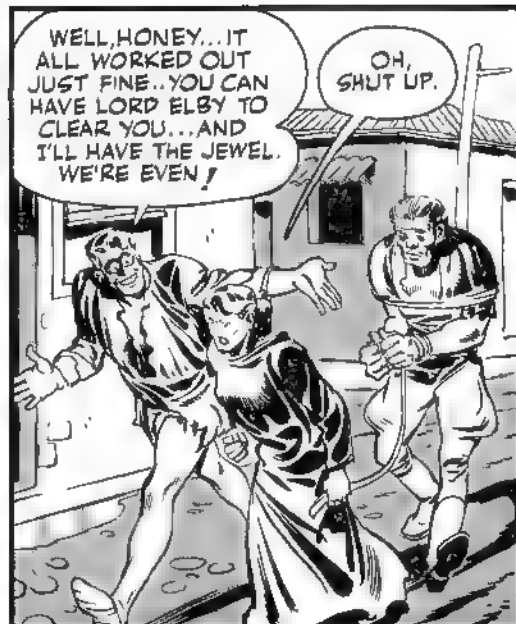




AN HOUR LATER. THE COURTYARD OF THE PALACE...







ye olde
Spirit
 OF
'76
Will Eisner

In 1776 Ebenezer Q. Budderchorn of Applebend Township, delegate to ye Continental Congress, did embark in a dinghy along ye river Hudson toward ye city of Philadelphia, there to affix his signature to ye Declaration of Independence.

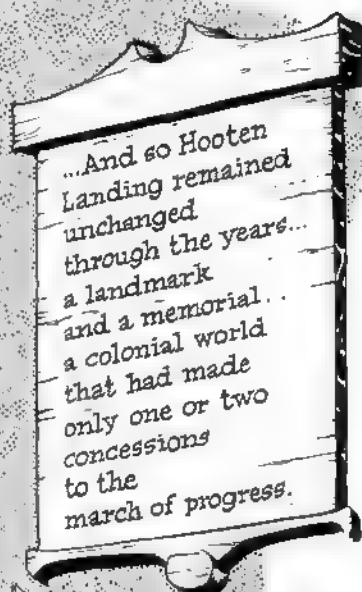
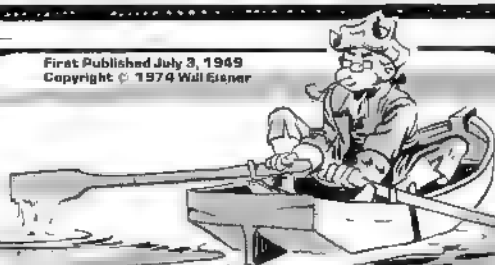
On his person, Citizen Budderchorn carried a preliminary draft of afore-mentioned document; upon which were several suggested revisions... (his own).

However, upon passing Hooten Landing his vessel did encounter a heavy fog, and thereafter Citizen Budderchorn was never seen again.

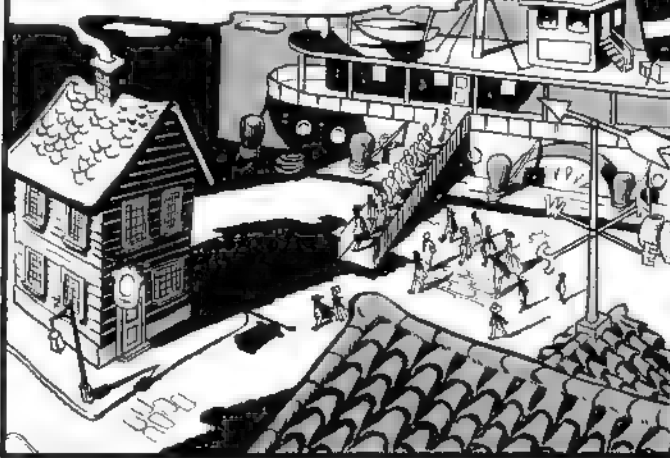


The next day the colonies declared their independence.

First Published July 3, 1949
 Copyright © 1974 Will Eisner



YOU MUST HAVE HEARD OF OLD FORT HOOTEN, ONE OF THE BATTLE FRONTS O' THE REVOLUTION... 'T WAS NEAR THERE THET OL' EB BUDDERCHERN DISAPPEARED... SO YE C'N SEE WHY EVERY FOURTH O' JULY THERE'S A TREMENDOUS TOURIST TRADE...



WELL, SIR... ONE SARTIN FOURTH O' JULY, A PECK O' TOURISTS LANDED... AND THEN THE FUN BEGAN...

HERE WE ARE, MISS DOLAN! SOON WE BEGIN OUR SEARCH FOR THE BUDDERCHERN DOCUMENT!

I'M SO EXCITED, PROFESSOR FLINTLOCK! I'M GLAD THE CENTRAL MUSEUM SENT ME WITH YOU ON THIS MISSION!



AS CHIEF HISTORIAN FOR THE CENTRAL MUSEUM, I'VE TRACED BUDDERCHERN'S TRAIL SINCE HE DISAPPEARED IN THAT FOG... I'M CONVINCED THAT HIS BOAT CAPSIZED, FATALLY INJURING BUDDERCHERN. BUT BEFORE HE DIED, HE HID THE DOCUMENT SOMEWHERE IN OLD FORT HOOTEN!

AT LAST! ONE ADVENTURE WITHOUT THE SPIRIT AROUND TO MEDDLE!



WHUT NOW, MIST' SPIRIT?

YOU GO ON TO THE HOTEL, EBONY... I HAVE TO SEE THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.



KIDS SHOULDN'T BE ALLOWED T'HAVE FIREWORKS !!



HMMM... ER... AHM... WHERE C'N I BUY SOME...?

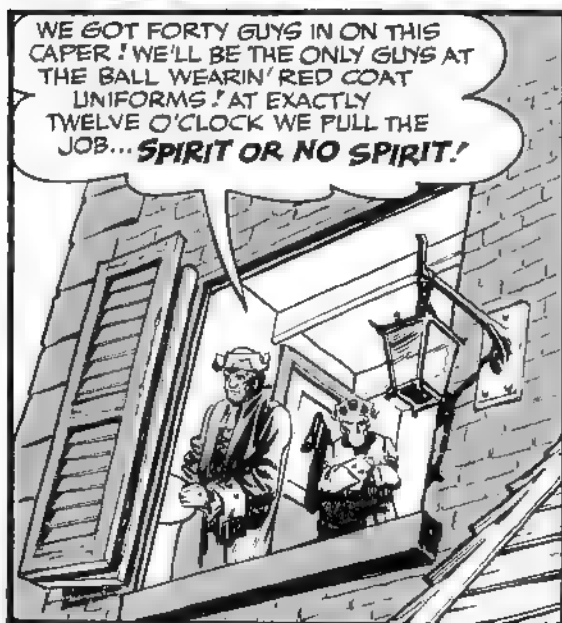
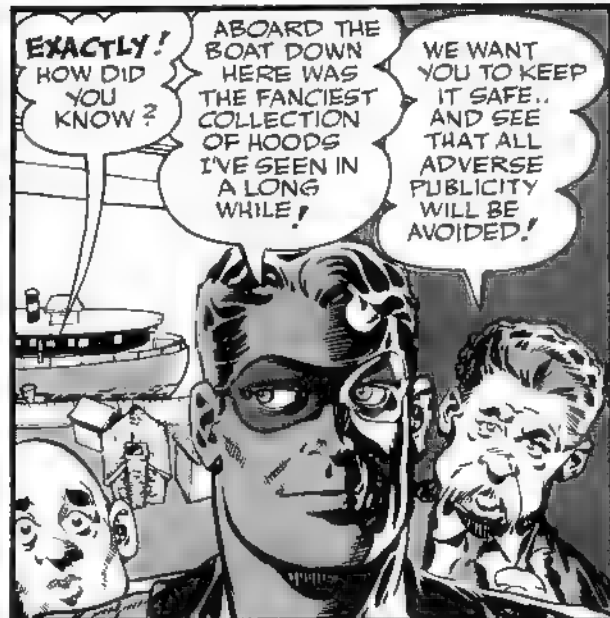


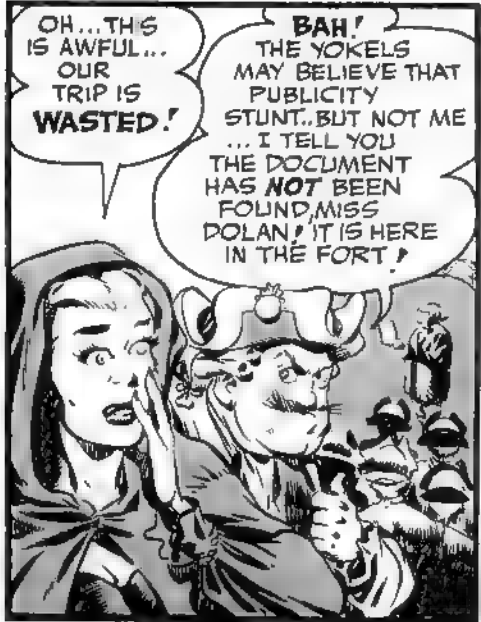
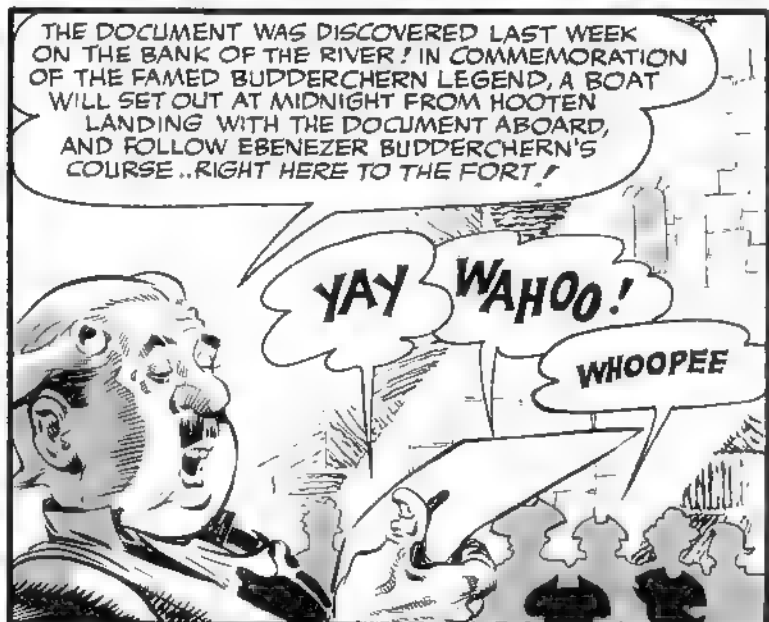
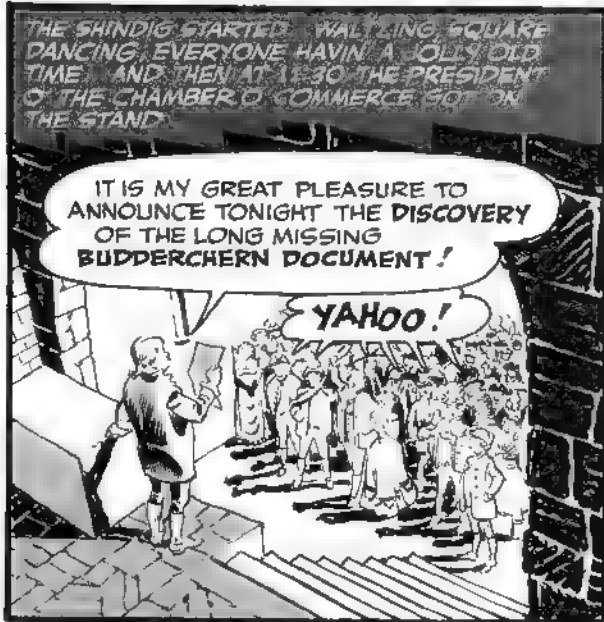
MEANWHILE...

WELCOME TO HOOTEN LANDING MR. SPIRIT... HISTORICAL SITE ON THE HUDSON! PATRIOT'S PARADISE!! THE CITIZEN'S SHANGRI-LA!!! A ROMANTIC RIVER RETREAT FOR REAL AMERICANS! ER... EXCEPT... AHM... FOR... ER... AN OCCASIONAL CRIME...



... WHICH WAS WHY YOU SENT FOR ME...?









SPIRIT!



THE DOCUMENT!



AN THE LAST THEY
SAW O' THAT PIECE O'
PAPER, IT WAS FLOATIN'
OUT TO THE RIVER
'MIDST A VOLLEY O'
FIREWORKS



MEDDLER!!



WELL SIR, BY THIS TIME IT
WUZ PAST MIDNIGHT, AN LI'L
EBONY HAD EMBARKED ON
HIS TRIP TO FORT HOOTEN.

GULP... SO THIS IS
WHERE BUDDERCHERN
DISAPPEARED...



SILLY... THESE LEGENDS...
CHUCKLE: ... EVERY FOURTH O' JULY
BUDDERCHERN'S GHOST
IS SUPPOSED T'BE ROWIN'
IN THIS HERE FOG, TRYIN'
T'GET THROUGH...



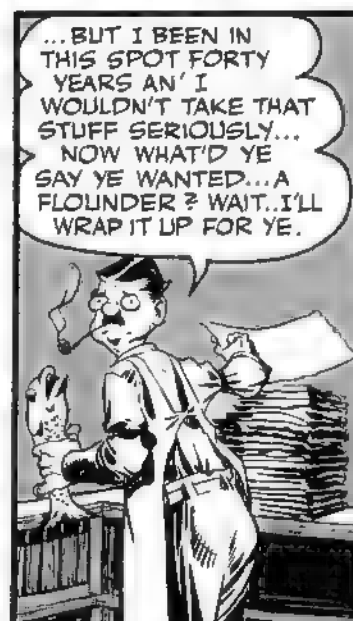
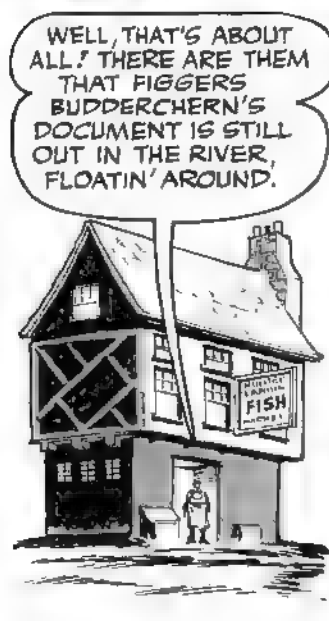
SILLY...
JEST... **GULP...**
RIDICULOUS...!



S-SOMEBODY IS
OUT THERE... IT MUST
BE TH' SPIRIT...
WANT US
TO OPEN UP
ON HIM...?

OH, YANKEE
DOODLE DUM
DE DUM.

HERE HE
COMES...
**GET
READY!**



The ELEVATOR

AS A MATTER OF TRUTH,
CRIMEFIGHTERS DEPEND
HEAVILY ON SIMPLE TIPS...
AND IN THE MATTER
OF SNEEVER, THE
BOND THIEF, WE HAD
THE TIP...AND IT ONLY
REMAINED TO PICK HIM
UP...A SIMPLE MATTER..
BUT ANYTHING
MIGHT HAPPEN..



...WHICH WAS
WHY 6:50 P.M.
ONE GLOOMY DAY
FOUND US AT
THE ENTRANCE
TO THE
CENTRAL
BUILDING ON
WAVER STREET..

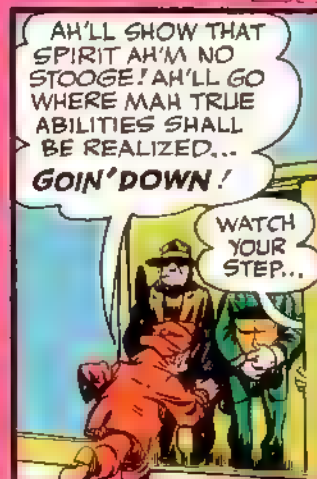
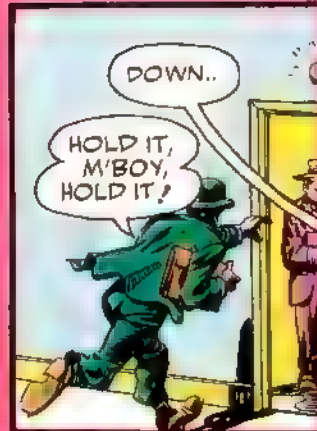
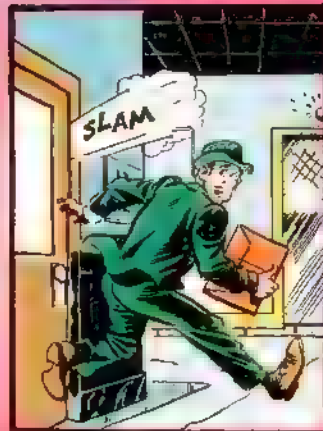


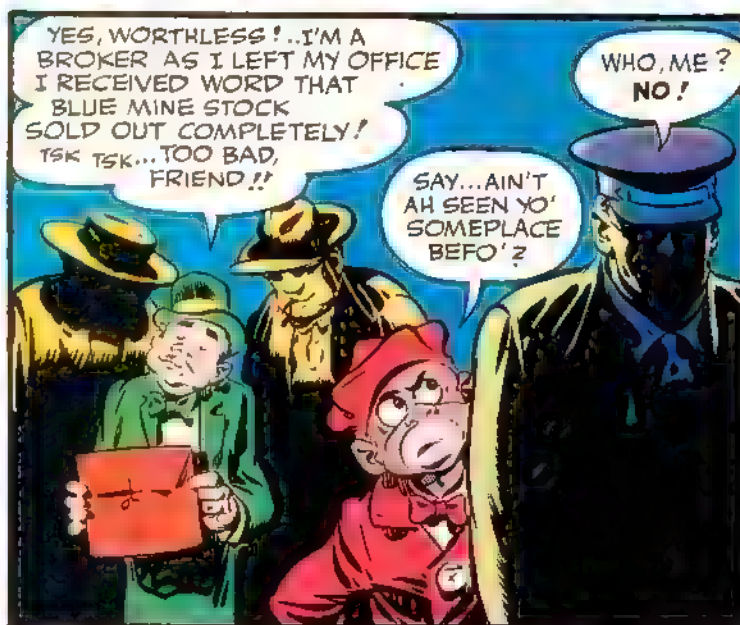
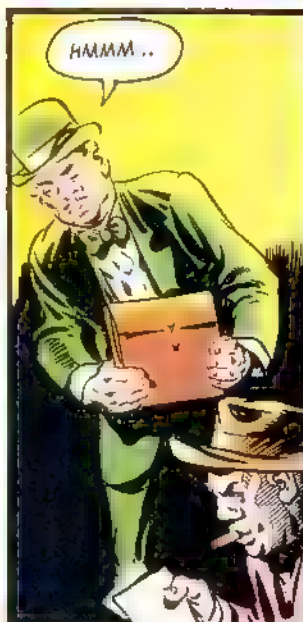
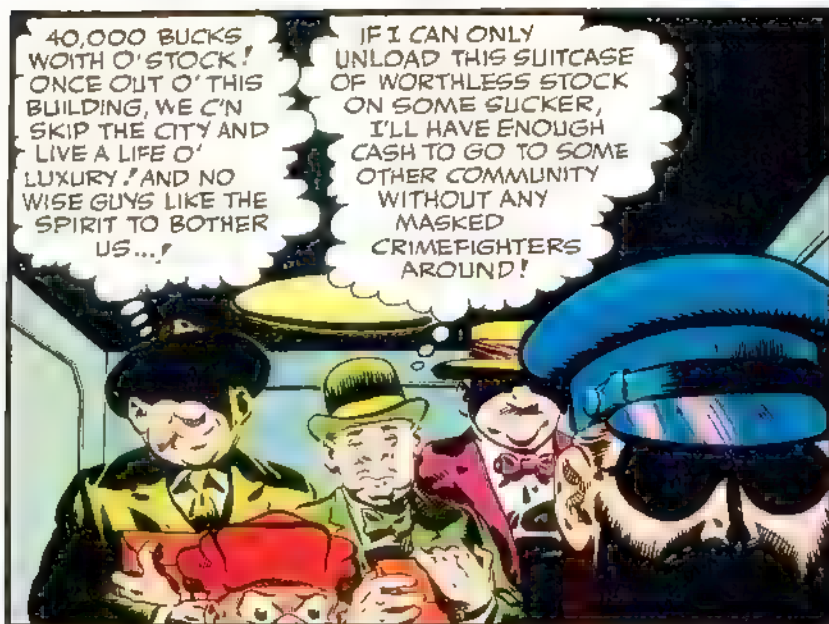
THE JOINT'S SURROUNDED,
SPIRIT... STAIRWAYS AND ALL..
THE ONLY EXIT NOW
IS BY ELEVATOR..
WHAT'LL WE DO.?

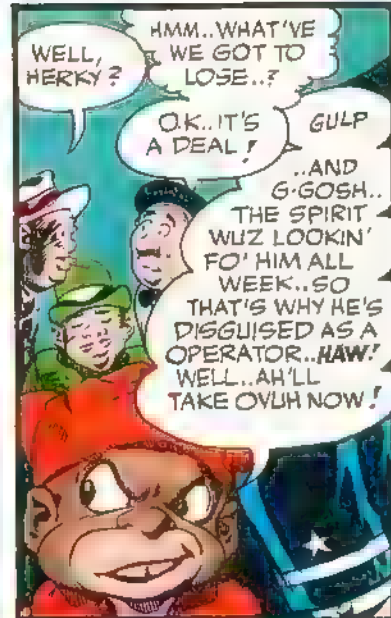
WAIT.

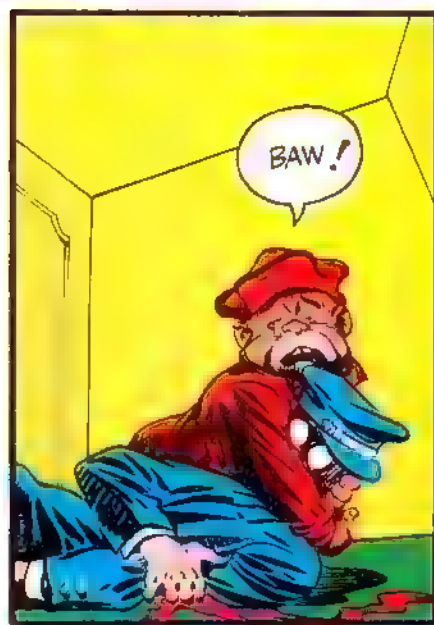
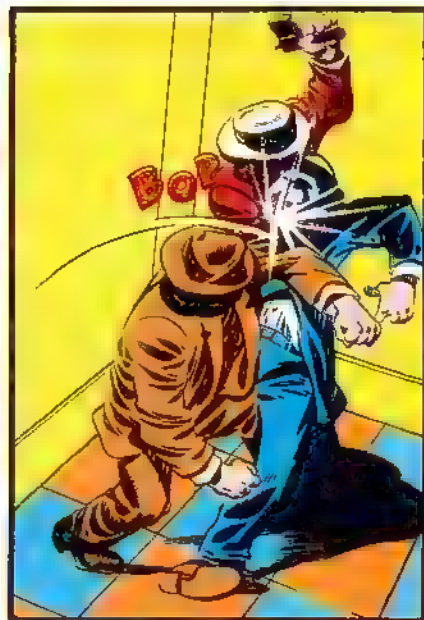
From the 65th
floor of the
Central Building
to the street
it is but
five minutes
by elevator.
Yet
there are times
when these few
fleeting minutes
seem
like hours,
and the little car
a stage
wherein
mighty dramas
begin....
or
end...

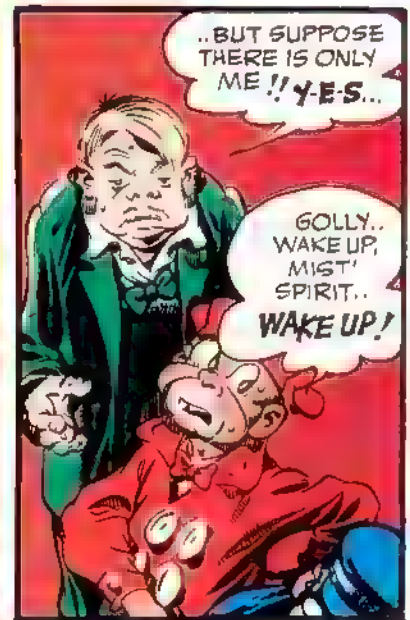
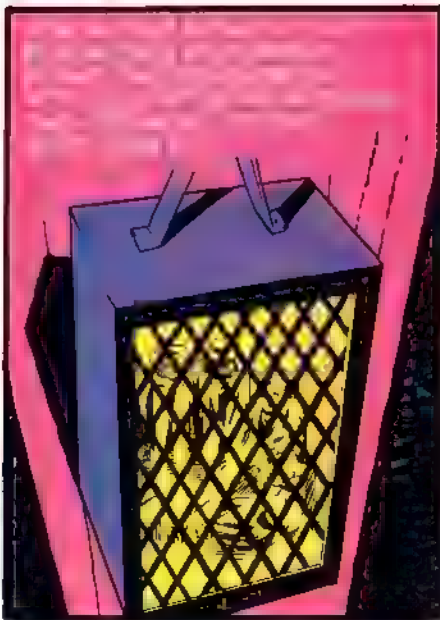


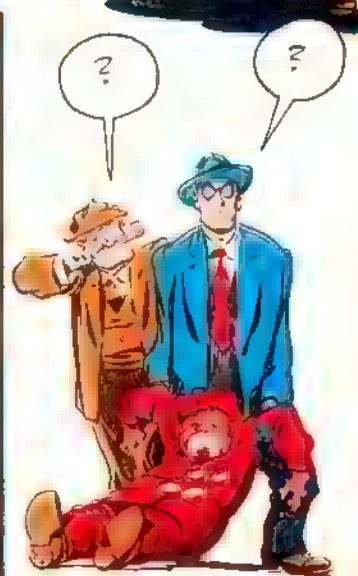
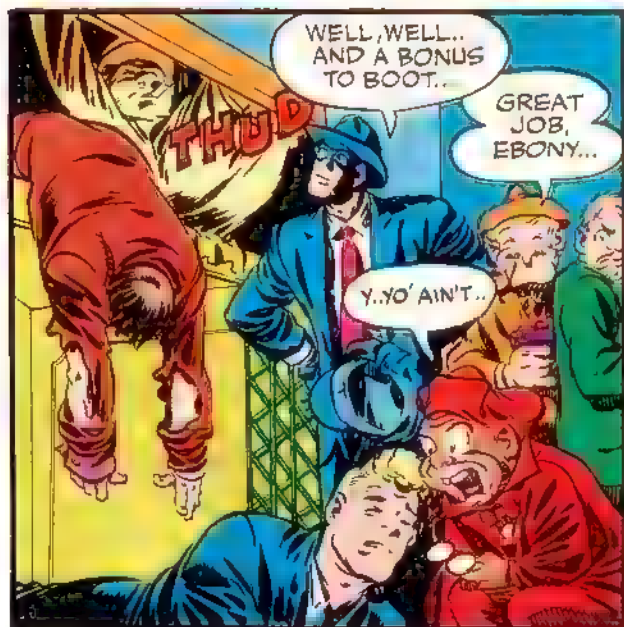
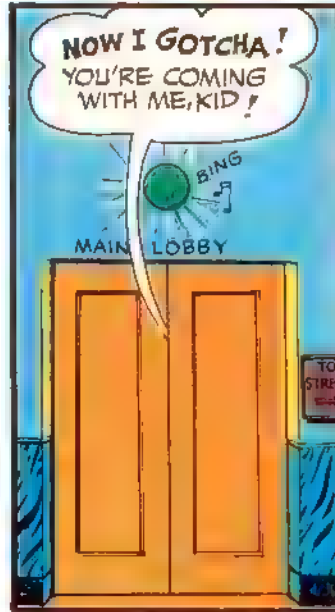
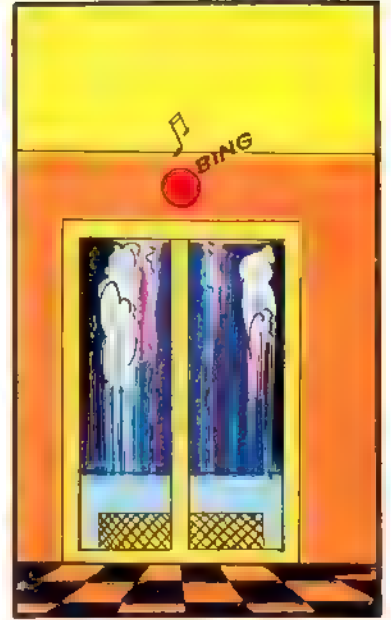












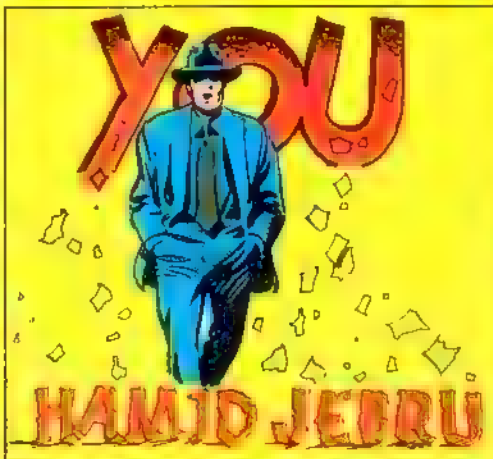


DON'T MISS NEXT ISSUE WHEN THE SPIRIT IS... WANTED: DEAD OR ALIVE!

The Spirit finds himself on the wrong side of the law, hunted by both the police and the underworld! Plus... high adventure in Egypt as he challenges the most feared gangster in the world... Hamid Jeburu! All in the next exciting issue of THE SPIRIT!



ON SALE
SEPTEMBER 10!





First Published September 23, 1947
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The chill autumn fog
has laid a clammy hand
on Central City...
smothering sounds...
dampening footsteps...
squoooshing into soggy
silence the brisk, brittle
sounds of the city...

Only in Slum Gully...only
in the city's little kingdom
of crime is there a
resistance to the Silt that
soaks the city when the
fog rolls in ...

For here in the crooked
pock-marked kingdom
there is something that
the wet fog cannot
weaken ... Here in Slum
Gully there is only
waiting...waiting...for
the return...

the Return of Vino Red

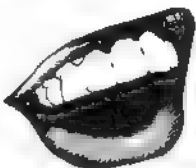


Chill, too, is the autumn
fog over the isle of
Mezzoprani....
Here too there is waiting...
Here too they are waiting...
waiting for Vino to go...



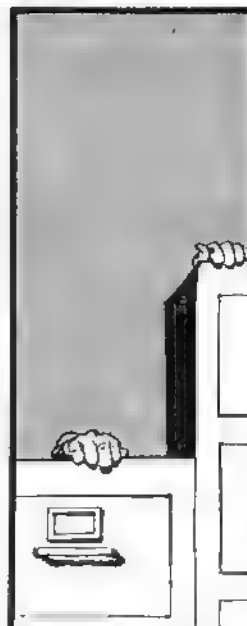
HA HA

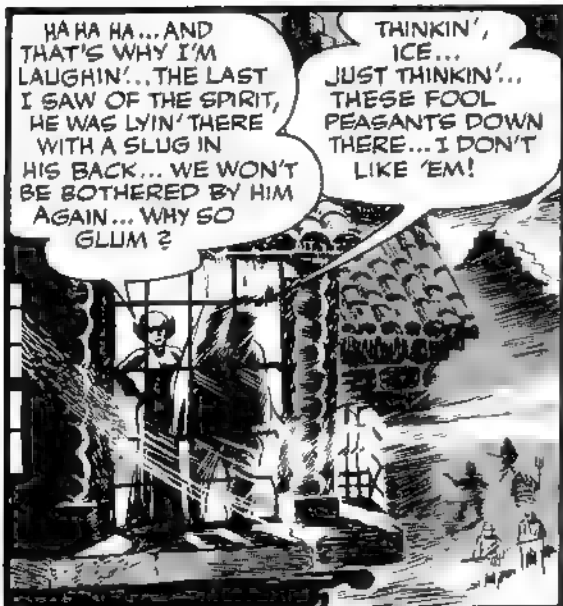
..AND ME... 'ICE' WATERS...



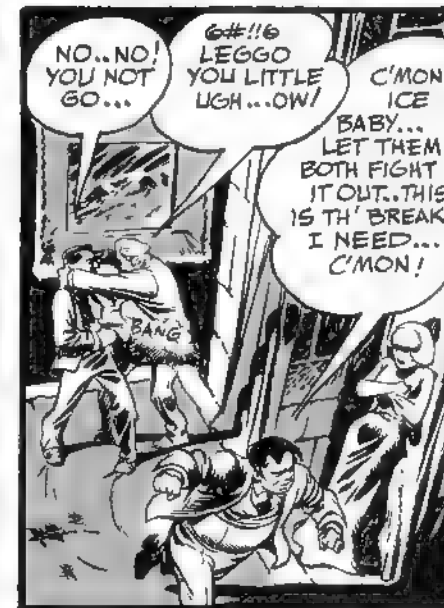
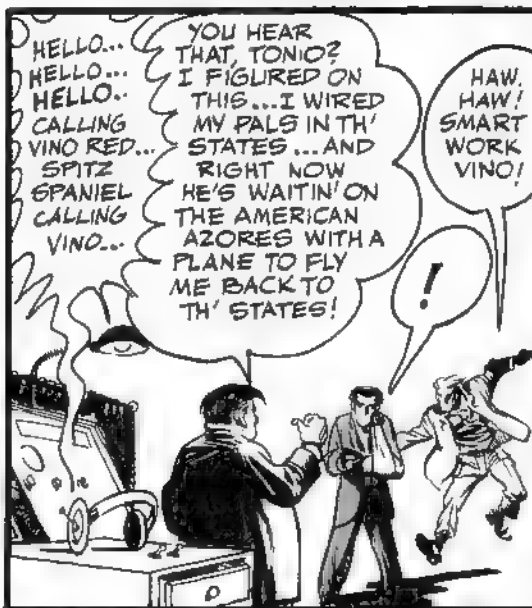
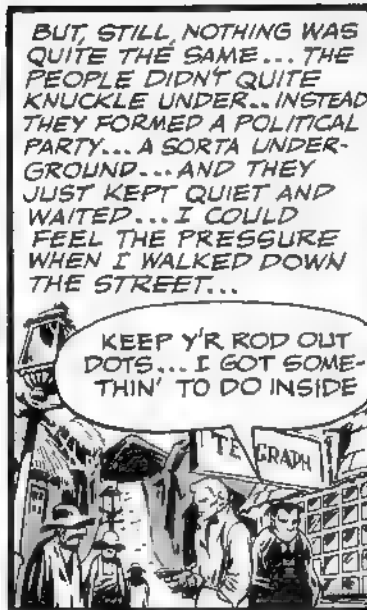
I'M THE FUNNIEST OF ALL...
SUDDENLY FEELIN' REMORSE..
SUDDENLY I'M THINKIN' ABOUT
THE SPIRIT... THINKIN' ABOUT
THE LAST WE SAW OF HIM...
JUST 100 DAYS AGO...

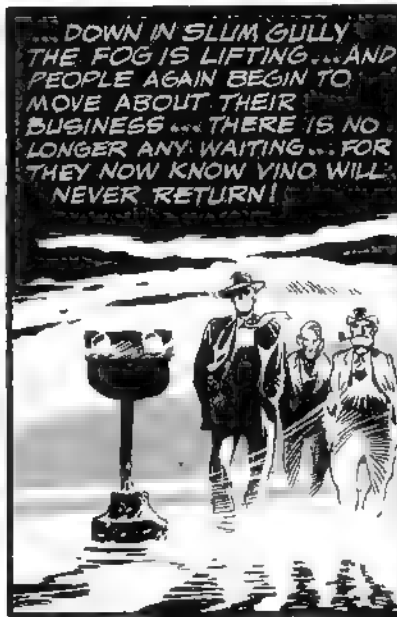
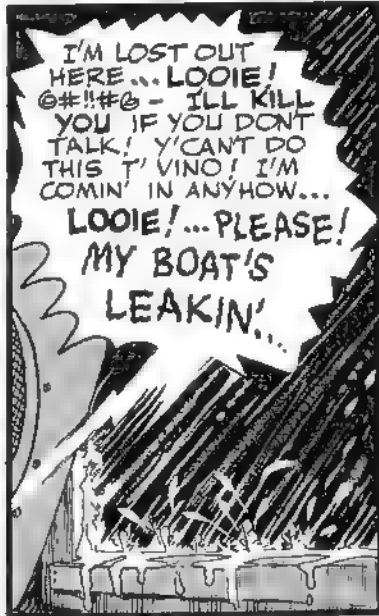
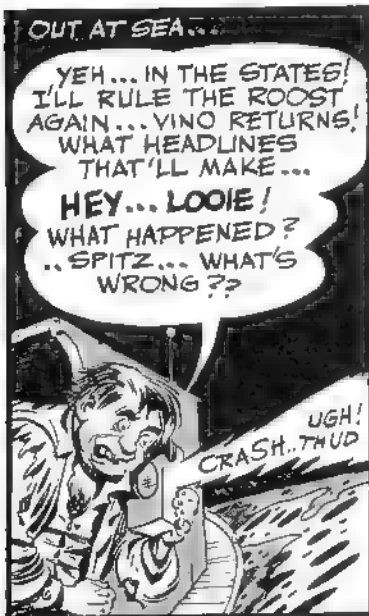












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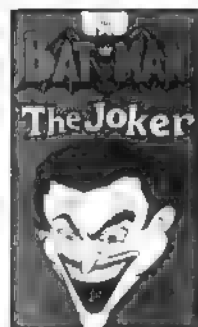
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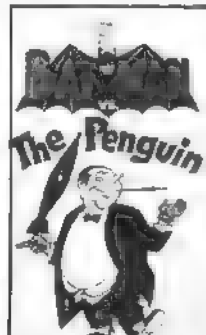
Puzzle #3
#2487/\$1.25

ASSEMBLE APE SCENES

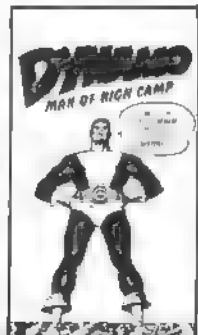
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THE GUILTY GUN...

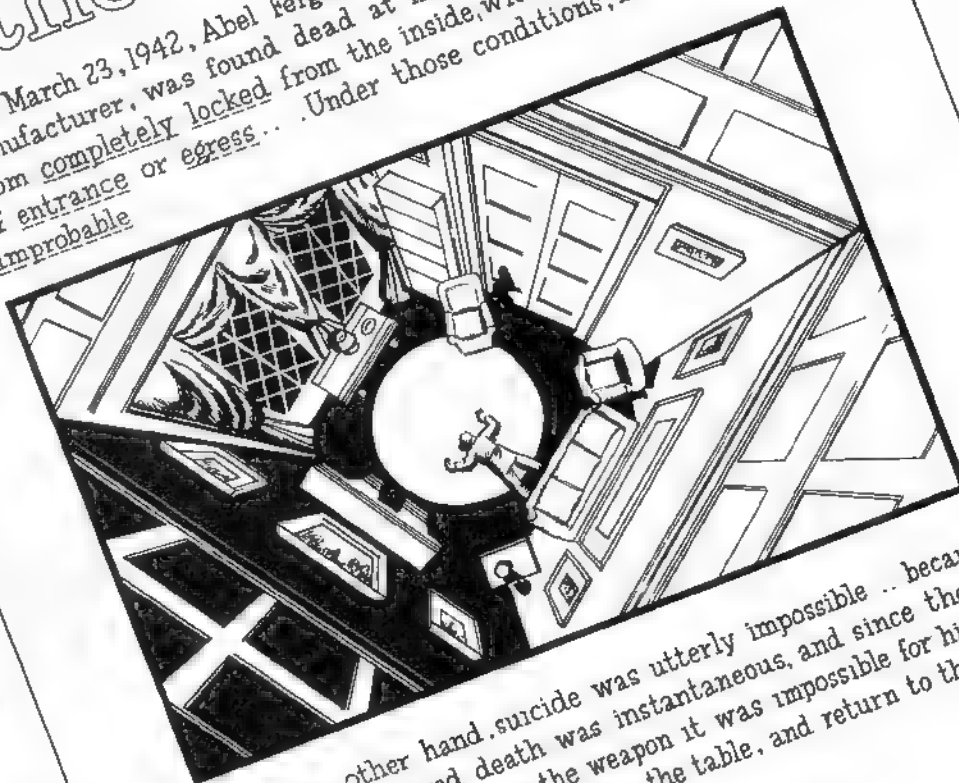
Unsolved Cases No. 3

From the private files of

the Spirit

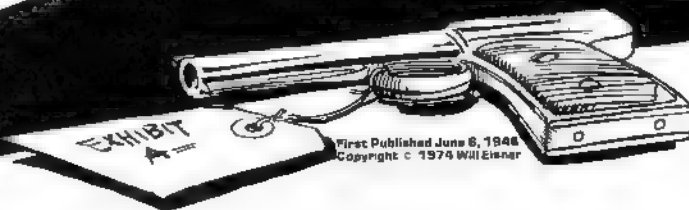
by Will Eisner

On March 23, 1942, Abel Ferguson, wealthy retired steel manufacturer, was found dead at his country estate... in a room completely locked from the inside, with no other avenue of entrance or egress... Under those conditions, murder was improbable



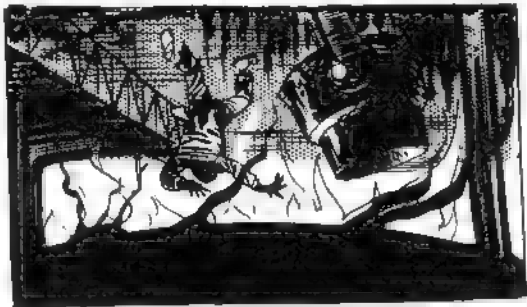
On the other hand, suicide was utterly impossible... because the doctors proved death was instantaneous, and since the body lay 15 feet from the weapon it was impossible for him to shoot himself, place the gun on the table, and return to the spot where he was found.

There is only one other possibility...



First Published June 8, 1948
Copyright © 1974 Will Eisner

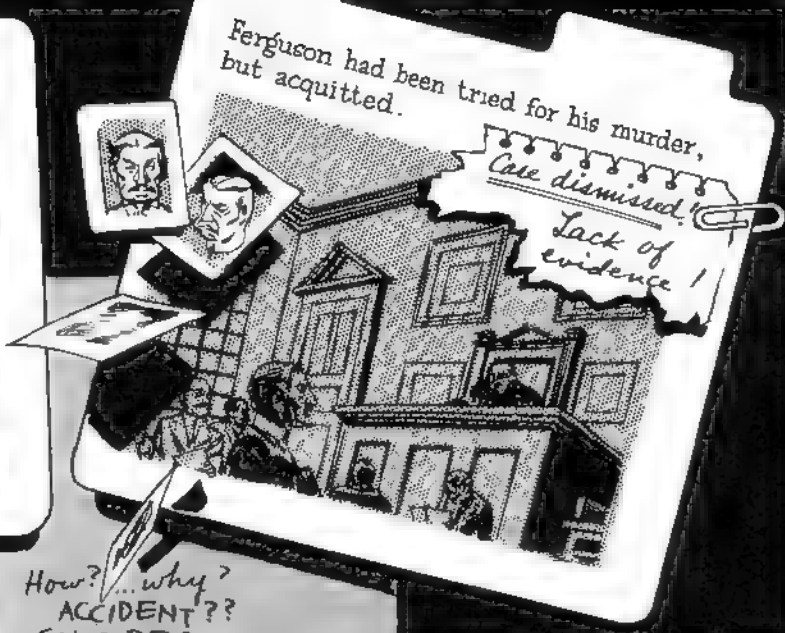
People said Abel Ferguson had cause for suicide In 1906 his partner, John Dailey, met a horrible death....he had fallen into a vat of molten steel at the Ferguson & Dailey mills.



Ferguson had been tried for his murder, but acquitted.

Case dismissed!

Lack of evidence!



But from that day he was a broken man. He lived 36 years in the shadow of the tragedy, in complete retirement....interested only in his collection of unusual guns.. until he died ..by a hand unknown.



How?...why?
ACCIDENT??
SUICIDE?
MURDER?
We checked every inch of his past

...we found nothing that would cast any light on the killing of Abel Ferguson

POLICE HEADQUARTERS...

THIS HAS ME STUMPED...IT CAN'T BE SUICIDE AND IT CAN'T BE MURDER!

IT MUST BE MURDER..SOMEONE MUST HAVE GOTTEN INTO THAT ROOM SOMEHOW A GUN CAN'T FIRE ITSELF!



MRS. FERGUSON HAD BEEN ALONE IN THE HOUSE AT THE TIME OF THE SHOOTING, AND WAS THE OBVIOUS SUSPECT...

NO, NO OF COURSE I DIDN'T KILL HIM.. I LOVED HIM!

NOW, MRS FERGUSON, CALM YOURSELF...WE ONLY HAVE A FEW MORE QUESTIONS.



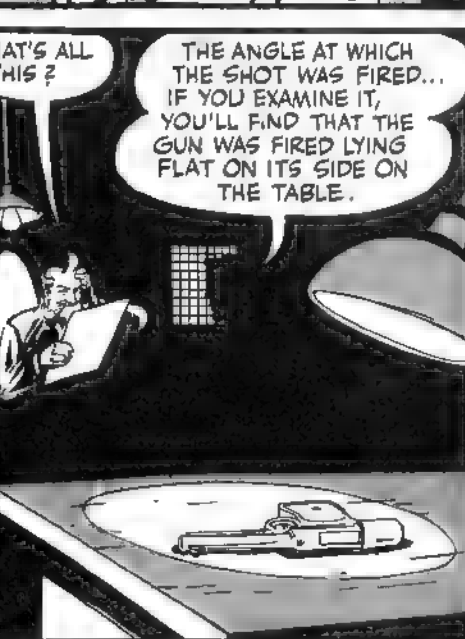
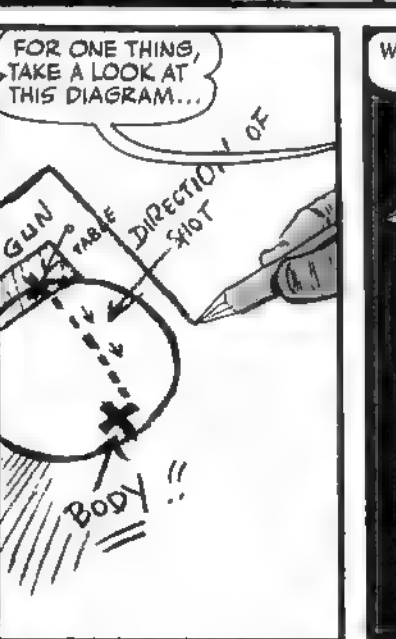
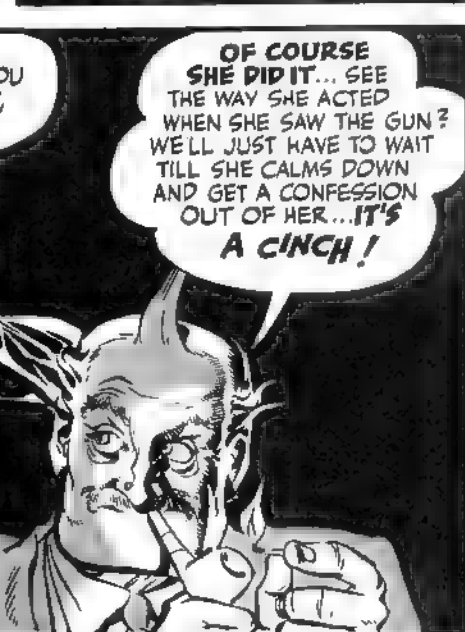
HAVE YOU EVER SEEN THIS BEFORE?

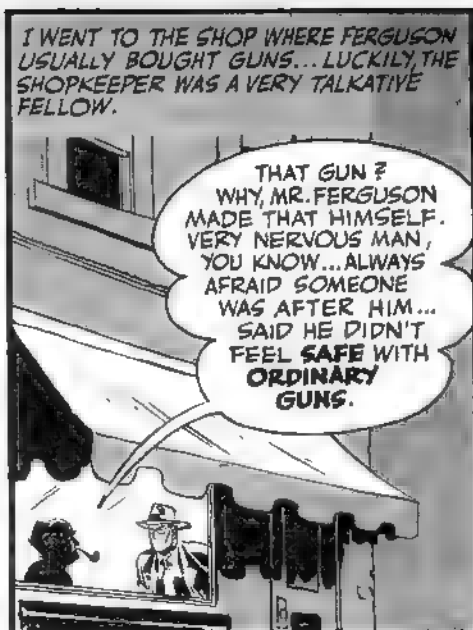
EEEK



...ER.. I..I DON'T THINK SO.







THE DATE OF DELIVERY OF THESE BARRELS WAS ONE WEEK AFTER JOHN DAILEY'S TRAGIC DEATH.



I KEPT THINKING OF DOLAN'S REMARK...A GUN CAN'T FIRE ITSELF!
THE SUSPICION THAT WAS FORMING IN MY MIND WAS FANTASTIC AND HORRIBLE, BUT I HAD TO FOLLOW IT THROUGH.



HEADQUARTERS.



WHAT? THIS IS INCREDIBLE! IT MEANS... IT MEANS...

COINCIDENCE..THAT'S WHAT IT IS..COINCIDENCE!



MAYBE SO.. BUT LET'S SEE WHAT EFFECT THIS INFORMATION HAS ON MRS FERGUSON.



LATER.

MRS. FERGUSON, WE'VE MADE AN INTERESTING DISCOVERY. THE GUN THAT KILLED YOUR HUSBAND WAS CAST FROM THE VAT OF STEEL IN WHICH JOHN DAILEY DIED!

EEEEEE



IT'S TRUE, THEN.. IT'S **TRUE!** I FELT IT ALL ALONG... **THE GUN KILLED HIM! JOHN DAILEY PAID HIM BACK...**

JUST AS HE SAID HE WOULD...



...BEFORE WE PUSHED HIM INTO THE MOLTEN STEEL.

WHAT!

THIS IS A CONFESSION.. TAKE IT DOWN..



AND THEN SHE BROKE DOWN AND TOLD THE WHOLE HORRIBLE STORY

MRS FERGUSON'S CONFESSION

John Dailey found out that my husband was selling unhsted securities on the corporation. One night he threatened to expose him

GOOD NIGHT, FERGUSON. YOU CAN EXPECT A POLICE OFFICIAL IN THE MORNING.



A POLICE INVESTIGATION AT THIS POINT WOULD RUIN ME...AND THERE'S NO WAY OUT!

YES, ABEL. THERE IS A WAY...



I pointed out to Abel how easy it would be to meet Dailey on the catwalk above vat 6.

HURRY, ABEL... HURRY! IT'S THE ONLY WAY...



ALL RIGHT, DAILEY...I'VE GOT YOU THIS TIME.



YOU WIN, FERGUSON! GASP... BUT...REMEMBER... I SHALL RETURN!!



NO ONE SAW US..AND ABEL WAS CLEARED OF SUSPICION. BUT HE'S KEPT HIS THREAT.. THAT GUN IS MOVED BY A DEAD MAN'S WILL...

HA HA HA HA HERE HEER

IT'S A GUN WITH A WILL OF ITS OWN!

SIGN HERE, MRS. FERGUSON, AND THAT WILL BE ALL..



NOW YOU LIE DOWN HERE, MRS FERGUSON.

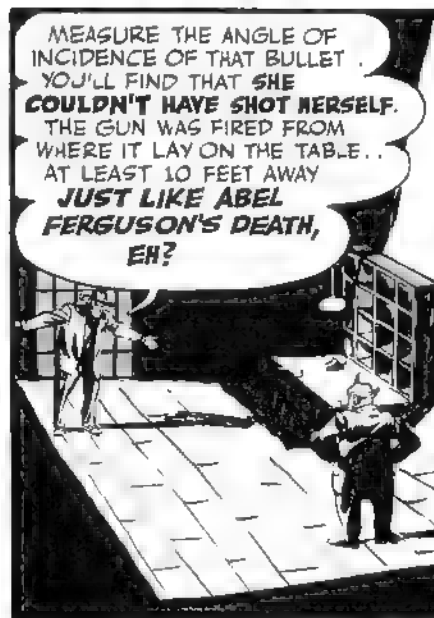
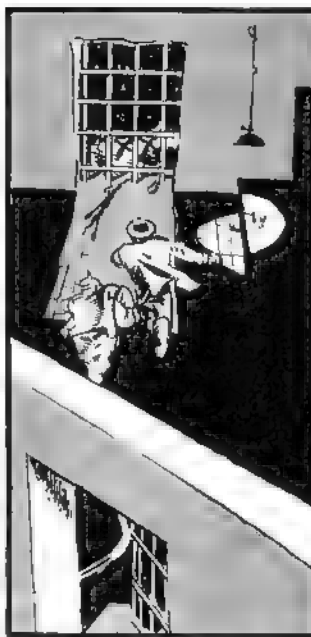


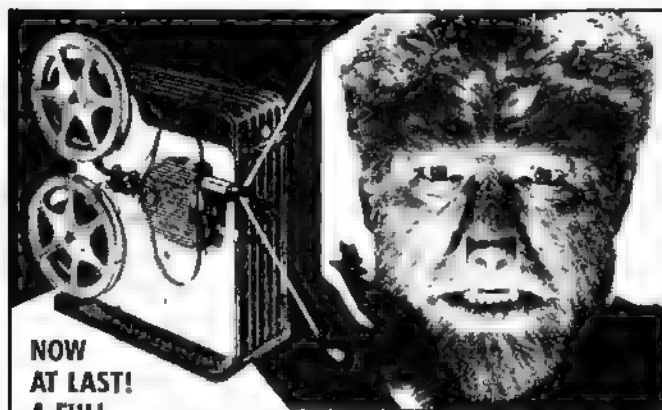
HELLO...GILHOOLY? TELL THE D.A. I HAVE THE FACTS. YEAH, I'M LEAVIN' THE GUN ON THE MAIL TABLE... PICK IT UP WHEN YOU GET AROUND TO IT.

DID Y'LOCK HER CELL, SPIRIT?

YEP.







NOW
AT LAST!
A FULL-
SIZED
150 WATT



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FLAXEN WEAVER



First Published December 11, 1949
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IT ALL STARTED
NORMALLY
ENOUGH...IT
WAS GOING
TO BE A DULL
EVENING...
ELLEN HAD
INVEIGLED ME
INTO GOING
TO A SWANK
SOCIAL AFFAIR...



THE NEXT
TIME YOU
TALK ME INTO
GOING TO
ONE OF THESE
THINGS, I...



SHHHH...
LORRAINE..
HOW DARLING
OF YOU
TO INVITE US...
YOU LOOK
DI-VINE!

ELLEN..SPIRIT!
HOW **LAHVELY**



**BARON
AND
BARONESS
LA PLANCHE**

SPIRIT. YOU WOLF!
STOP STARING
AT THOSE PRETTY
GIRLS!

BARONESS!
HOW NICE
THAT YOU
COULD COME!



WRONG GUESS, ELLEN! THIS
IS STRICTLY BUSINESS! THAT
LITTLE LADY, THE BARONESS
LA PLANCHE, MUST HAVE
GAINED NOBILITY VERY
QUICKLY. LAST WEEK IN THE
ROCKIES SHE WAS JUST MISS
FLAXEN WEAVER...AND A
SMUGGLER BY TRADE!



OH
PHOOEY!
WELL..
ANYHOW,
LET'S
DANCE...
BEFORE
THE
SHOOTING
STARTS, OR
YOU SOCK
SOMEBODY,
OR SOMETHING
!!

WHY IS IT THAT
ALL OTHER GIRLS
CAN GO TO A
PARTY WITH
THEIR BEAU...
AND NOT A
SINGLE CROOK
IN SIGHT! BUT
AS SOON AS
YOU AND I...



MAY I
CUT IN?

WELL...OF
ALL THE
NERVE!

HELLO, SPIRIT
SO... VEE
MEET
AGAIN!



YOU SHOULD HAVE TOLD
ME YOU WERE COMING,
FLAXEN... I WOULD
HAVE INCREASED MY
LIFE INSURANCE. HOW
DID YOU ESCAPE
THE LAW UP
NORTH?



ESCAPING
FROM THE
POLICE
IS MY
HOBBY !!

THE LAST I SAW
OF YOU, YOU WERE
IN A PRISON
HOSPITAL,
RECOVERING
FROM A BULLET
WOUND!..MAYBE
I'D BETTER HOLD
YOU FOR THE
AUTHORITIES!

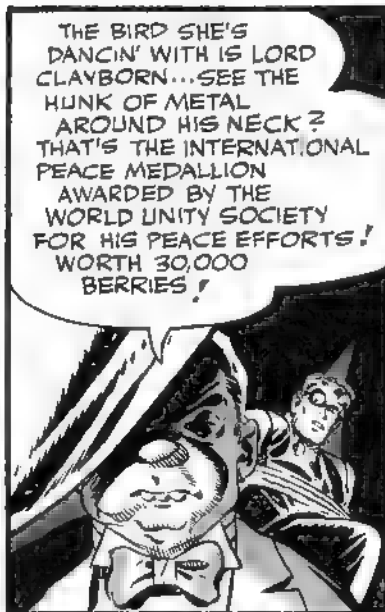


OOH..
HOW
OFFICIAL!
NOW...
IF YOU
DANCE
CHEEK TO
CHEEK
WITH ME,
SO THAT
WE'RE VERY
CLOSE..NO ONE
WILL NOTICE
THE GUN I'M
POINTING AT
YOUR STOMACH!

GOT HIM,
BLINK?



GOT
'IM!
STEP
BACK,
SPIRIT!
YOU'RE
SPENDIN'
THE
EVENIN'
WIT' ME!







WHEW...THEY'RE GONE...O.K..LET'S GO...I'VE GOT SOME FRIENDS I WANT YOU TO MEET AT HEADQUARTERS

HUH?

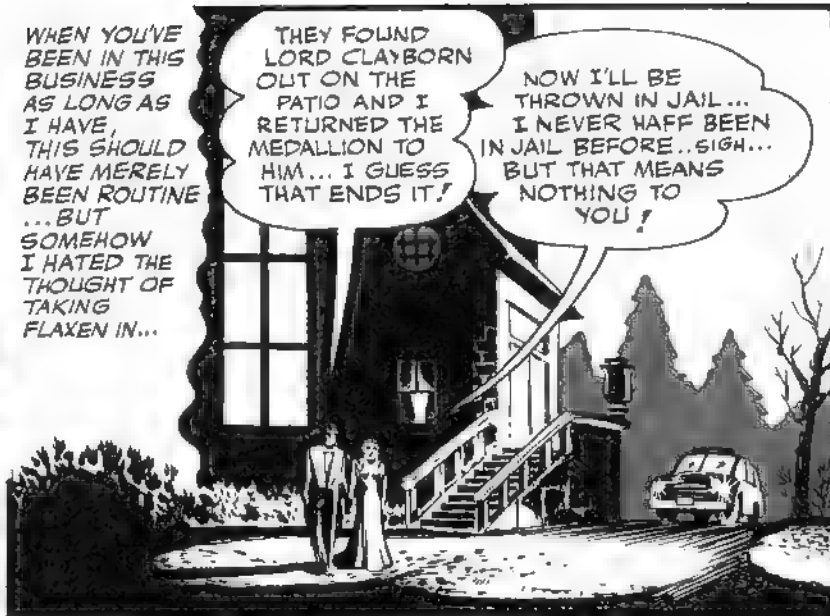


COME ON!!

WHEN YOU'VE BEEN IN THIS BUSINESS AS LONG AS I HAVE, THIS SHOULD HAVE MERELY BEEN ROUTINE...BUT SOMEHOW I HATED THE THOUGHT OF TAKING FLAXEN IN...

THEY FOUND LORD CLAYBORN OUT ON THE PATIO AND I RETURNED THE MEDALLION TO HIM... I GUESS THAT ENDS IT!

NOW I'LL BE THROWN IN JAIL... I NEVER HAVF BEEN IN JAIL BEFORE...SIGH... BUT THAT MEANS NOTHING TO YOU!



YOU **COULD** LET ME GO IF I PROMISED TO TURN HONEST.. BUT YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE I'D KEEP THE PROMISE, SO WHAT'S THE USE?

HEY SPIRIT... OVER HERE! HOLD IT!

POLICE..?



HEY.. YOU'RE NOT COPS!

BRIGHT, AIN'T HE, FLAXEN?



OUCH!!

HIT 'M, FLAXEN! WHAT'RE YE STANDIN' THERE FOR?



...AND THAT WAS ALL... UNTIL AN HOUR OR SO LATER, WHEN I AWOKE BOUND TO A RAFTER IN A DESERTED WAREHOUSE... AND STARING INTO THE WICKED NOSE OF A .38..



YOU'RE GOING TO DIE, SPIRIT! WE'LL CUT CARDS TO SEE WHO WILL KILL YOU! AND DO YOU KNOW WHAT? I HOPE I DRAW THE HIGH ONE!







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are committed
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do New Yorkers eat
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drunk??

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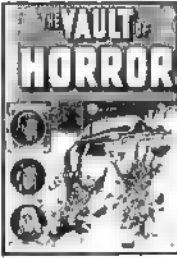
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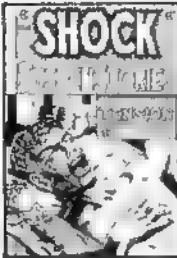
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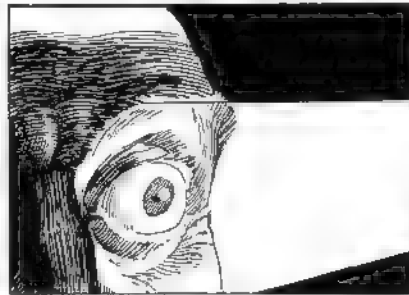
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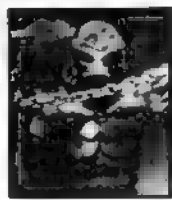
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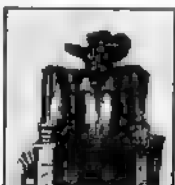
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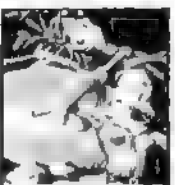
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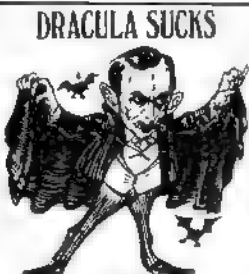
Embellish dull and lifeless t-shirts or sweat-shirts with these big, beautiful iron-on transfers. Why be just "part of the crowd"? Stand out with a design that is uniquely you. They're quick and easy to use, and won't fade or run in the wash.



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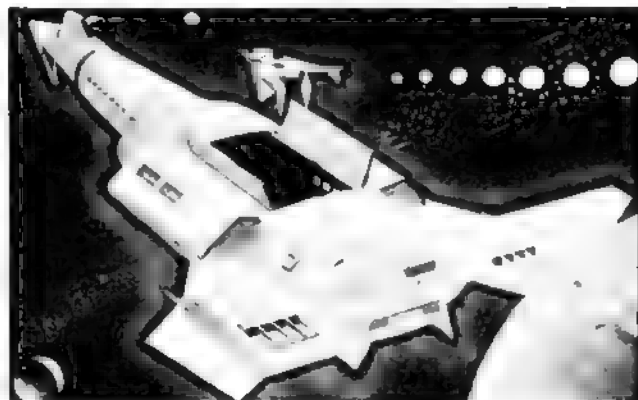
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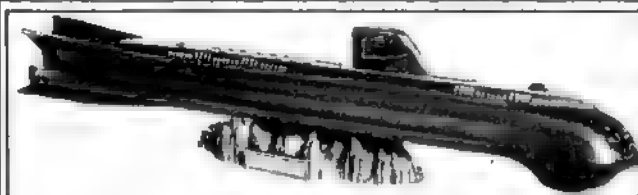
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Here's an incredible plastic model that glows in the dark! From "somewhere out there" it comes, a luminescent spaceship of alien invaders. This magnificent hobby kit is a big thirteen inches long when assembled. It comes complete with a display stand, and carries a miniature scout ship in its launch deck. Additionally, the doors to the launch deck open so that the mini spaceship can be removed. Extremely detailed, each and every highlight stands out when you turn off the lights. Assemble an entire fleet of ships! #2492/\$3.00

SEAVIEW SUBMARINE HOBBY KIT

Sliding gracefully beneath the Polar regions of earth, is the nuclear-powered submarine Seaview. Its mission: To save the world from destruction by atomic rays from outer space. Not really, of course, but that's the story behind the hugely successful film and television series *VOYAGE TO THE BOTTOM OF THE SEA*. And here is a beautifully detailed all-plastic replica of that sleek sub, *The Seaview*. It rests on its own coral-rock display stand and is almost a full foot in length. Create an undersea diorama with the kit. Or add it to your collection of futuristic vehicles, such as the *Star Trek* kits. #24103/\$1.49



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8" TALL! ALL PLASTIC! CLOTHES MADE OF CLOTH!

You asked for them, and here they are! A collection of all-plastic figures to bend and pose in any position. Here are Universal Pictures' greatest monsters, from *Dracula* to *Frankenstein*; from *the Mummy* to *the Creature from the Black Lagoon*. Use them as models from which to draw your own monstrous comic strips... or use them as stop-motion models and make your own animated monster films. Or just pose 'em and decorate your room!



THE MUMMY

Many thousand years ago, a great Prince of Egypt was buried alive. His mission: To guard the great treasures of the kingdom. Now, from the ancient sarcophagi of ages-past comes Kharis, the killer mummy. And he looks to destroy the expedition that has defiled his final resting place. Made in the image of Chaney. #2493/\$2.79

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Mary Shelley's immortal creation lives again as an exciting bendable doll. Here is the monster created by Dr. Frankenstein. Built from the rotted remains of decayed corpses, this green-hued grotesquerie is the perfect companion to your Mummy monster bendable. This jointed doll is in the image of Boris Karloff. #2494/\$2.79

DRACULA

The sun has set, and the night casts its shadows over the land. Time it is for the vicious vampire known as Count Dracula to rise from the grave. Carefully... silently... he goes about his gruesome work, searching for victims from whom to drink fresh blood. A fantastic figurine, cast in the likeness of Bela Lugosi. #2495/\$2.79

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An archaeological expedition into the depths of the Amazon jungle locates one of the most amazing creatures in history! He's a livid green, his scale-encrusted body half-man, half-fish. He's the being of super-human strength, from the *Black Lagoon*! #2497/\$2.79

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Under the driving rays of the full moon he prowls, his vile fangs gleaming in the night light. From town to town he runs, preying upon the innocents he finds therein. For this is the Wolfman, the animal in human form... from whom no one is safe! Put him against Frankenstein! In the image of Lon Chaney Jr. #2496/\$2.79

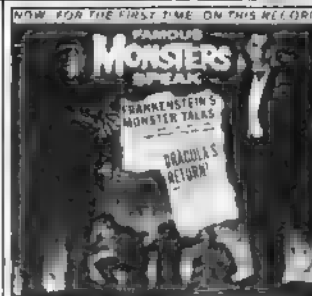
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MONSTERIFIC LP RECORD ALBUMS!

8 EVIL EDGAR POE RECORDS IN A! ALLAN POE SHIVERIN' SERIES!

THIS IS THE GREATEST HORROR RECORD SERIES OF ALL TIME. Talented actors Martin Donegan and Ugo Toppo share the honors and glory of this monumental project THE RECORDING OF THE COMPLETE STORIES OF EDGAR ALLEN POE! The project is still going on, and already there are 8 masterful records in six single albums and one double album; each read with skill, precision, and a sure sense of nerve-numbing terror. Each reading is so well done, that the horrible word pictures of Poe's diseased psyche seem to materialize before your eyes; rotting castles, scurrying rat-things, the walking-dead in their pale shrouds seem to vibrate in the air as the words of the world's greatest macabre storyteller ripple the very ether!

- | | | |
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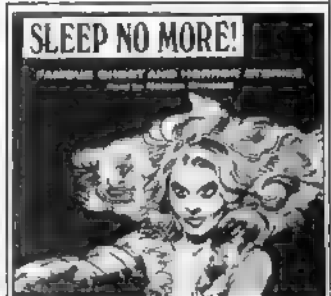


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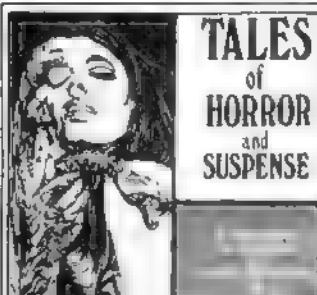
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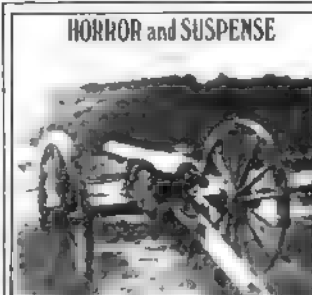
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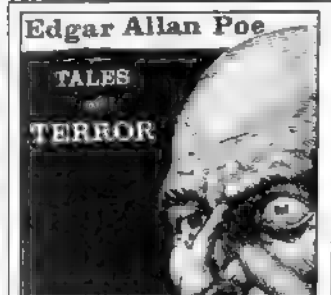
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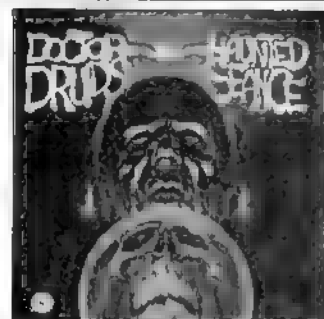
Remember the 1960s and HIGH CAMP in Super Heroes? Well, we've managed to get a special limited supply of this rare comedy record: a Rock Super-Hero Suite, suited for the strictly straight-jacket sell! Lots (and acres & parking spaces) of laughs! #2337 COMIC BOOK HEROES \$5 98



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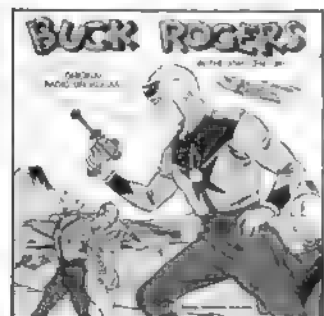
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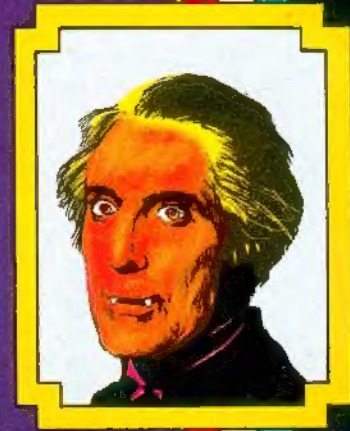
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